



It's TOURNAMENT TIME

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FUN IN THE SUN

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It's THAT TIME AGAIN

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THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

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State University,
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Booth College to begin search for replacement

Application deadline
for dean search is set

By KARA SWINK
WEB LIAISON

With the Board of Regents approval of the leadership development plan Feb. 19, Northwest's administration is finally in search of a dean for the Melvin and Valerie Booth College of Business and Professional Studies.

The president's cabinet, the dean's council and several University department chairs developed the plan after research showed that, within the next few years, 75 percent of the senior leadership team will retire, Provost Taylor Barnes said.

Under the plan, a search committee of 12 including the University president, provost and faculty within the college and across the University is assigned to assess potential dean candidates.

"We really wanted a University-wide effort in terms of fulfilling those positions," Barnes said. "With the plan and committee, it will give us a lot of different view points when it comes to the selection."

University President Dean Hubbard said there are two potential internal candidates who might be nominated for dean, but he said the position is not limited to only Northwest faculty.

"This is a national search, and we will look at everyone who is qualified," Hubbard said. "Roughly 60 percent of the University's positions should be within, but I don't want everyone to be internal."

Hubbard said his main goal for the college is to find a strong candidate to replace the current dean, Ron DeYoung.

DeYoung announced his resignation last fall. DeYoung came to Northwest 19 years ago from Western Michigan University where he was the associate dean of the college of business.

The office of Human Resources posted the dean search on the University's Web site Feb. 28 with an application deadline of March 21.

Mary Throener, director of Human Resources management and member of the search committee said three weeks is adequate time for an applicant to apply if interested.

"We are encouraging quick response with the deadline we've set," Throener said. "Once we have a response, we'll look at who's in the pool and take the next step."

Throener said finding a replacement to fill DeYoung's shoes will be a challenge. DeYoung was an essential asset when the University signed articulation agreements with several community colleges last year.

"I think (Please see 'Booth' page 5A)

Ice, ice, baby



Commuter Anne Liebhart, graduate student, bares the cold to de-ice her car behind the Valk Agriculture Professions Center after Maryville received

extensive freezing rain and snow Tuesday afternoon. "I scraped for 30 minutes because the ice was so thick," Liebhart said.

PHOTO BY KARA SWINK/WEB LIAISON

Northwest students prepare for duty

Current students prepare to fight for United States if they are called to action

By MARK EUSTON
CHIEF REPORTER

Due to the evolving situation in Iraq, Northwest students who serve in the military are beginning to receive calls to report to active duty or to prepare to depart.

The students being called up will have to withdraw from classes and report as ordered.

"We are trained to do this," said Scott Griffin, lance corporal of the Marine Corps. "We don't want to leave, but if we are put in the mix of it again, our training will make us ready."

Others have left their homes and have started serving a full-time role in the military. Steve Terry received the call to duty earlier this year. "Leaving this country really makes you appreciate what you have at home so much more than you did before you left," Terry said.

Alan Hargreaves, senior airman in the Air Force, received a call Sunday to be prepared to report soon.

"The reason (I do this) is because I want

to make sure that my sister and my family are safe," Hargreaves said. "I just do not want to see another 9/11."

Griffin said the reason he joined the Armed Forces was because of his family.

"I don't do this for the money," Griffin said. "Your friends and your family are what keep you motivated. You just say 'I've got to keep doing my job because what I am

doing is protecting lives.' I am protecting the lives of my men and my family." Many students have voiced their opposition to the potential war with Iraq, and

"Nobody wants to think about death, but I had to make a will out at the age of 21."

SCOTT GRIFFIN
NORTHWEST STUDENT

New member joins City Council

Carol Coutts assumes Lager's vacated position

By STEPHANIE SUCKOW
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

Before regular business was conducted at the City Council meeting Monday, a new member, Carol Coutts was sworn in to replace the position Brad Lager left behind.

Coutts was approached by Mayor Ron Moss in January to take over for Lager who left for Jefferson City to fulfill his new duty as 4th district state representative.

Coutts believes she can benefit the Council because she has

lived in Maryville for a long time and has previously served on the planning and zoning committee for the city.

"I accepted the position because I have interest in the community," Coutts said. "I'm excited to work with this community."

In other business, the controversy occurring in the community regarding local bars and their specials was the first issue dealt with as Mick Hoskey, owner of Molly's approached the Council.

Hoskey explained he wants to be included in any further discussions the Council may have with University President Dean Hubbard regarding the complete dismissal of open bar specials. (Please see 'Council' page 5A)

Meteorite garners attention from 'The Today Show'

Million-dollar meteorite brings attention to farmer

By ABBY SIMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

Gary Wennihan only slightly recalls discovering an interesting rock in his rural Fairfax soybean field one fall day more than two years ago.

These days, he can hardly forget now that the heavy, rust-colored oddity has turned out to be a one-of-a-kind meteorite possibly valued at \$1 million.

"It's kind of funny really," Wennihan said. "I don't exactly remember the day I picked it up.

It was insignificant at the time. In fact, I carried it around in my pickup for quite a while."

No longer insignificant, the rock has been officially named the Milton meteorite after a small northwest Missouri town by Wennihan's wife, Betty. It is now attracting plenty of national attention, ranging from scientists to meteorite brokers, and most recently NBC's "Today Show" where co-host Ann Curry interviewed Wennihan and Northwest student Ben Rogers live via satellite from the Northwest campus Tuesday.

It's a far cry from the dusty, softball-sized stone Wennihan happened upon while clearing rocks from his field in the fall of 2000. (Please see 'Meteorite' page 5A)



PHOTO BY KERRY JONES/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gary Wennihan and student Ben Rogers answer questions about a rare meteorite on "The Today Show" Tuesday morning. Wennihan found the meteorite in his soybean field. Its estimated worth is \$1 million.

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Online exclusives...

Find out about Wednesday's school board meeting and read about two recent deaths of well-known Nodaway County leaders.

You will only find these stories at missourianonline.com.

Julian explains Super Mario Bros. secrets, The Missourian's Webcam, Network problems and married friends hitting on you.

He will reveal all in this week's Ask Julian.



Poll question:

Do you think George W. Bush should debate Saddam Hussein?

38.4% - No

31.3% - Yes

28.6% - It probably won't solve anything

1.8% - I don't care

This week's poll question:

If Missouri Western becomes a university, how do you think it will affect Northwest?

Northwest will lose students
It will benefit Northwest
Northwest tuition will rise
It will have no effect

Aeros dancers display talents at sold-out show

By ASHLEY RICKERSON
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Neither the most graceful bird nor the best jet airliner could compare to Aeros. The group of Roman and Bulgarian aerobic gymnasts graced Northwest with a one-night debut of gymnastics, dance and theater.

The Aeros performance drew quite an audience to Mary Linn Performing Arts Center March 5. "This is great," said Bryan VanOsdale, director of campus activities and Greek life. "We could

really use this at Northwest."

VanOsdale said he was in charge of bringing the show to campus through an agent in New York City.

The performance began and ended with loud music, bright lights and a fast heartbeat.

"It's the only one," said Maria Fumea, Aeros coach. "Nobody can do the show except this team from Romania."

The three men in charge of the artistic picture were David Parsons, Daniel Ezralow and Moses Pendleton. The co-directors and choreographers each have a history

of teaching, directing, performing and producing different dances and gymnastics. Each has founded successful dancing companies.

The choreographers asked 20 dancers who were world and European champion gymnasts from the Roman Gymnastics Federation. The dancers were trained in aerobic gymnastics, which is not yet acknowledged by the Olympics.

Fumea said she has been working very hard and would be very happy if aerobic gymnastics became a competition in the Olym-

pics. "Eight years ago, this wasn't considered a sport," she said. "Now, European countries consider this a sport. My dancers changed the rules. Now, it's Romanian style."

Their vocabulary of dance has been expanded with back flips, cartwheels, split leaps, round offs, handstands, handstands and walkovers.

"Dance has to change if you're asking people to pay good money to see it," Pendleton said. "It has to fall into principles of drama, some kind of situation that may fall into the area of entertainment."

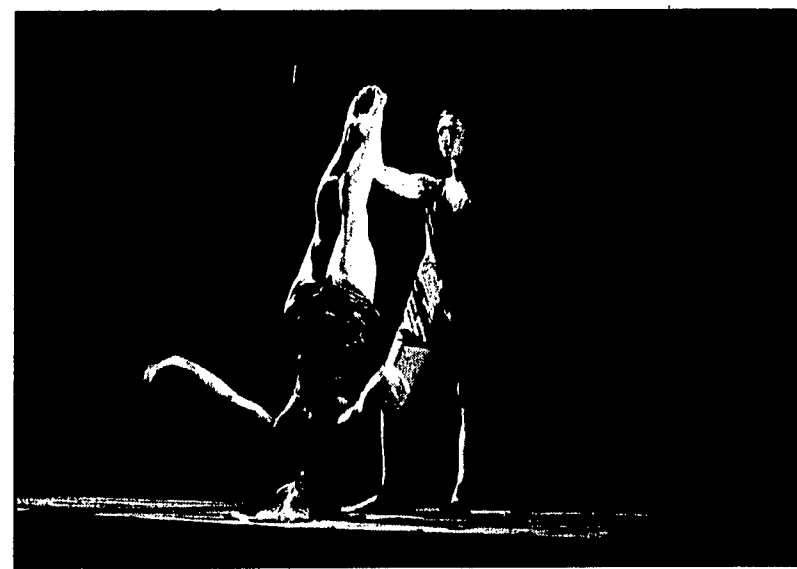


PHOTO BY KERRY JONES/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flexibility, strength and balance made up Wednesday night's performance from Aeros. "It was fantastic," said 8-year-old gymnast Katey Richardson who attended the performance.

Rappers Coolio, Rob Base to perform at Mary Linn

By MARK EUSTON
CHIEF REPORTER

Next Monday, Northwest expects over 600 students to file into Mary Linn Performing Arts Center to watch Artis Ivey, also known as Coolio. Rob Base and DJ EZ Rock will team up with Coolio during the concert.

David Whitacre, a member of Spotlight, said he was debating between performers.

"We looked into several bands and acts and this was the one that fit well into our budget and our schedule," Whitacre said.

Whitacre was in charge of scheduling the concert. He said the reason Spotlight chose the three artists was partially because of budget and partially because of timing.

This will likely be the last concert for the year because the only site that can adequately hold an event of such magnitude is Mary Linn Performing Arts Center, Whitacre said. The center is almost booked for the rest of the trimester.

Whitacre said everyone should attend, even those who are not fans

of rap.

"What do you have to lose?" Whitacre said. "Tickets are cheap, and it is going to be a good time. What else are you going to do besides sit at home?"

Though this might be the last concert for the season, Spotlight is looking into comedians Eric Nieves and Elvira Kurt for April 3. The event is still being planned, but Whitacre said it might be a dinner show.

Whitacre said that when they look at bringing in acts for the upcoming trimester, they often try to get a variety of different styles of music.

"We try to look at what people are interested in and what would sell the most tickets," Whitacre said. "Then we look at what budget we have and our schedule and the artists' schedule and get the best people that we can."

Whitacre said that the concert is designed to serve as a promotion to the community.

"As an advertisement to the community for Northwest it is huge," Whitacre said. "It is an alcohol-free event and therefore everyone can attend it."



PHOTO BY JANELLE DAVID/MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

Common Ground sponsored the fourth annual Drag and Dance Show Feb. 28 featuring two St. Joseph drag queens, one amateur Northwest drag queen and one faculty member.

Drag show raises money, awareness

By MICHELLE STACY
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

A crowd of excited students and faculty watched drag queens perform in the Student Union Ballroom Saturday while helping to raise money for charity.

The fourth annual Drag Show, sponsored by Common Ground, took place to help benefit the Child and Family Center of Northwest Missouri.

Ashley Cunningham, president of Common Ground, said the show was beneficial and fun.

"Every year, we do this show as a benefit for children," Cunningham said. "This is our way of having a good time while giving back to the community."

Part of the proceeds for the center came from the \$5 admission fee. The other part of the money raised came from the audience's tips to the drag queens while they performed.

However, the charity benefit was not the only good that came out of the performances. Cunningham said the show helps the campus and community become more diverse.

"I think this just brings people another aspect of things they can see about the gay culture," Cunningham said. "It helps them to get a different

perspective, and hopefully, that widens their aspect of diversity."

Cunningham said she believes acceptance has grown on the campus over the years.

Cunningham said they brought in two new drag queens for variety this year.

The show consisted of two drag queens from a nightclub in St. Joseph, an amateur drag queen from Northwest and a faculty member. Richard Frucht, professor of history and humanities, dressed up as a woman and performed a Cyndi Lauper song.

Frucht also said he knew the performance would not come without jokes from faculty and students.

The St. Joseph Buchanan County Health Department set up an information booth and sponsored free AIDS testing.

Cunningham said, although the event took about 45 hours to organize, it was worth the time and effort.

"Organizing this is very stressful, but it is also very rewarding in the fact that at the end of all this, we have spent three hours of our lives, and we've raised \$1,000 for kids," Cunningham said.

Michelle Stacy can be contacted at 562-1224 or mstacy@missourianonline.com

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Residents give up amenities for Lent

By STEPHANIE SUCKOW
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

Wednesday was the first of 40 days and 40 nights of Lent that Catholics, Methodists and Lutherans choose to give something up in order to gain a closer relationship with God.

Although the focus is the same, each religion chooses to approach the event in different ways.

Catholic priests ask their members to abstain from any form of red meat if they are above the age of 14 on Fridays during Lent.

"Sometimes people get confused when it comes to what meat they can and can't eat," said Sister Rose Hacker of St. Gregory's Catholic Church. "The rule is that you cannot eat any warm-blooded animal meat or things that have those products in them."

Catholics also fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday during Lent if they are between the ages of 18 and 59.

"It wouldn't be safe for young people who are still growing to give up eating for any period of time," Hacker said. "We don't want this becoming a health risk to anyone involved."

Lutherans choose to include members of all ages by asking all members to abstain from something in their life that hinders them from putting their entire focus on religion.

"People decide on their own what to give up," said Pastor Carl Droegemueeller of the Hope Lutheran Church. "They give up meat, chocolates or something serious that they are actually wanting to get rid of from their lives in order to put more focus on God."

Methodists ask their members to abstain from the elaborate things of life and get back to the bare essentials.

"We have no real religious document stating what we should and shouldn't do like other religions," said Pastor Ross Fulton of the First United Methodist Church. "It's more of a personal decision on what they feel they should be giving up rather than having church influence."

No specific food regulations are enforced in either the Lutheran or Methodist religions.

Baptists choose not to regulate or participate during the time of Lent.

"It is just not customarily something our denomination participates in," said Kara Jackson, office manager at Laura Street Baptist Church.

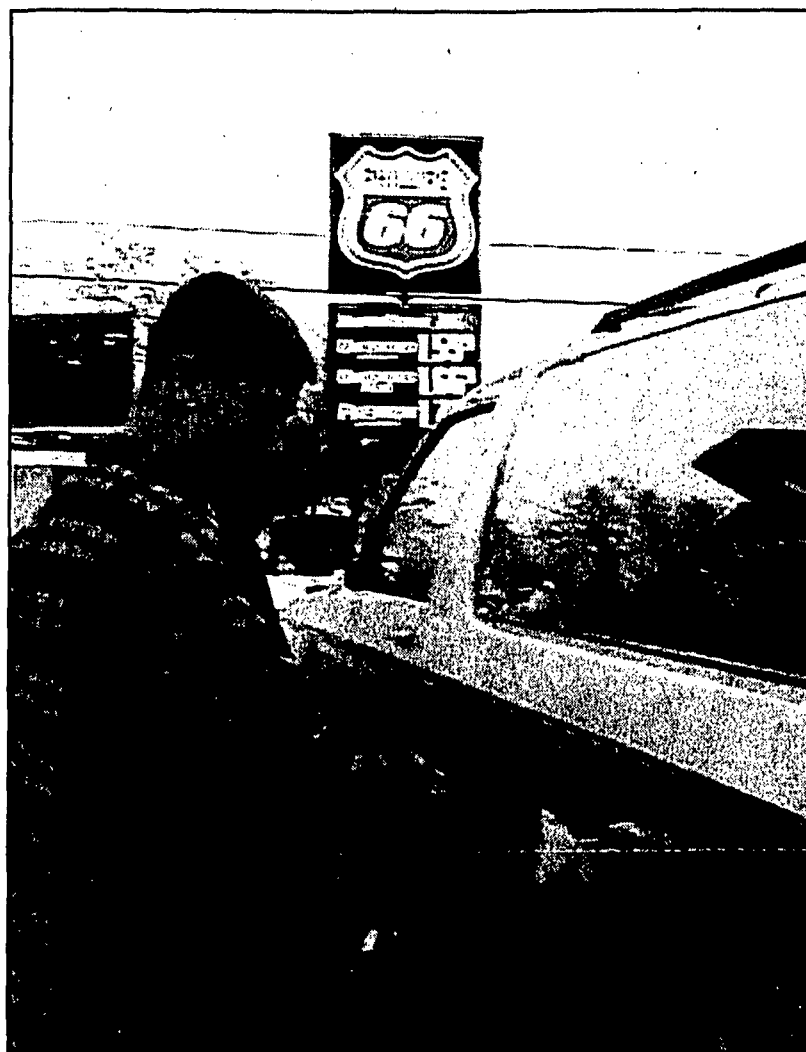


PHOTO BY KARA SWINK/WEB LIAISON
Camron Hull, 17, has to pay \$25 to fill up his tank once a week, these higher gas prices have affected drivers in the community. "These gas prices are insane," Hull said. "It costs so much to fill up my tank, and then it's gone in a week."

Gas prices burn holes in citizens' pockets

By ALEXI GROOMOUTIS
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Maryville residents are pumping out extra cash to fill up their gasoline tanks thanks to the looming threat of war in the Middle East.

The average price of Maryville gasoline has increased significantly in recent months to \$1.59.

Marshall Shell, owner of Shell's Amoco, said whenever there's a war, the price of gasoline goes up.

"It's going to stay at this price until Bush makes up his mind of what he's going to do," Shell said. "If inspectors go in, it will go down. If there's a war, it will go up."

Since the increase, Shell said his customers are only spending about \$1.50 more to fill up their tanks.

Steve Dempsey, co-owner of the Pit Stop North, said people aren't complaining as much because gasoline in Maryville is lower than in other states.

"There's a lot of places that are higher than we are," Dempsey said. "Like in Iowa, I heard it's \$1.79."

Pat Johnson, instructor of communication, theatre, and languages, said he is not surprised at the recent increase.

"I do notice I pay a few more dollars at the gas pump," Johnson said. "I guess that's what's to be expected with what's going on in the world today."

Dempsey said he doesn't think the high gas prices are stopping people from traveling.

"We haven't really seen a fall off in the number of gallons we sell," Dempsey said.

Junior advertising major Amanda Sanderson said gas is a necessary evil. Sanderson, who lives in Kansas City, said she can not afford to travel home as frequently as she'd like to because of the high gas prices.

"It's expensive enough to drive around town, let alone drive home on a regular basis," Sanderson said. "It takes me a good tank of gas to get home and back."

John Beeman, manager of Casey's North, said customers aren't happy with the gasoline prices, but people still have to drive.

"They're like everybody else. They don't like to pay more, but what choice do they have?" Beeman said.

Shell said he doesn't think the price of gasoline will rise above \$1.65.

"In this area, I don't see it going up to \$2," he said.



PHOTO BY ADAM HUNT/MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER
State Rep. Brad Lager met with community members on Feb. 28 at A & G Restaurant for a legislative coffee sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Lager took the time to inform citizens of issues in the Missouri General Assembly.

Lager returns to keep citizens informed of legislative issues

By SARAH SWEDBERG
CHIEF REPORTER

Maryville citizens met with State Rep. Brad Lager Friday to gather insight on the Missouri legislative issues impacting the community.

The Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce's legislative committee hosted a coffee at A & G Restaurant on February 28 where Lager spoke to citizens about budget problems and ways the house of representatives and senate are trying to solve them. Lager also discussed particular house and senate bills which affect the Northwest area.

Kay Wilson, chairperson of the legislative affairs committee, said they discussed the importance of staying up

to date on legal issues in the capital.

"We are a long ways from Jefferson City," Wilson said. "It is good for us to keep up on what is going on down there."

Lager said the distance between Jefferson City and Maryville is an obstacle which must be overcome in order to be effective in voicing the town's concerns.

"The most important thing we are asking for is constituent input," Lager said. "I believe that northwest Missouri could truly make a difference by being in the middle of the fight all the time."

Lager's information helped citizens to understand the issues and the decisions the legislators will face in the next few months as they try to formalize the state's budget before presenting it to

Gov. Bob Holden.

"One thing I like about Rep. Lager is he does not speak in political generalities," said Mike Thompson, Maryville councilman. "He gives you specific stuff on what is really going on."

Thompson said Lager's ability to speak in specifics has reaffirmed his knowledge of the battle between the political field and the bureaucratic field.

"I was a little surprised in a sad way of just how severe it really is," Thompson said.

Overall, Wilson said the information will give community members the knowledge and information they need to lobby for Maryville in Jefferson City.

"I think it is being a responsible citizen of the community to come and hear what our legislators have to say,"

Thompson said. "It gives us an opportunity to get some one-on-one time with Representative Lager in preparation for the Chamber trip to Jefferson City."

On March 4 and 5, community members traveled to Jefferson City to visit with Lager and Sen. David Klindt as well as other representatives, senators and agency officers.

Maryville resident Larry Rusco said Lager was helpful in setting up the various appointments and discussions with people who were concerned with the city's issues.

Members were satisfied with the results of the trip.

"Preparation and planning had a lot to do with the success of the trip," Rusco said. "The trip exceeded our expectations."

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Our View

Step down from the celebrity soapbox

While superstars have the right to speak out, stature should not be used to persuade others

We may be influenced by celebrities when it comes to what color of eye shadow we wear or what brand of shoes we buy, but when it comes to war, should we allow these people to sway our opinion?

We at *The Northwest Missourian* feel that celebrities should jump down from their soap boxes and understand that their level of status is going to get them nowhere with the issue of war.

Sure, Sheryl Crow may be able to stand on national television sporting an antiwar t-shirt and tell everyone to love each other and to protest the war, but why should we listen?

We should be forming opinions on those involved, people worthy of sharing what they know first-hand.

Sheryl Crow and other celebrities cannot even begin to put themselves in the shoes of a woman who has to watch her husband leave, possibly for the last time. They will never have to face a 5-year-old boy who cannot comprehend why his daddy has to leave.

The families of those watching their loved ones leave are the people who have the right to an opinion. These are the people who have earned a right to the soap box.

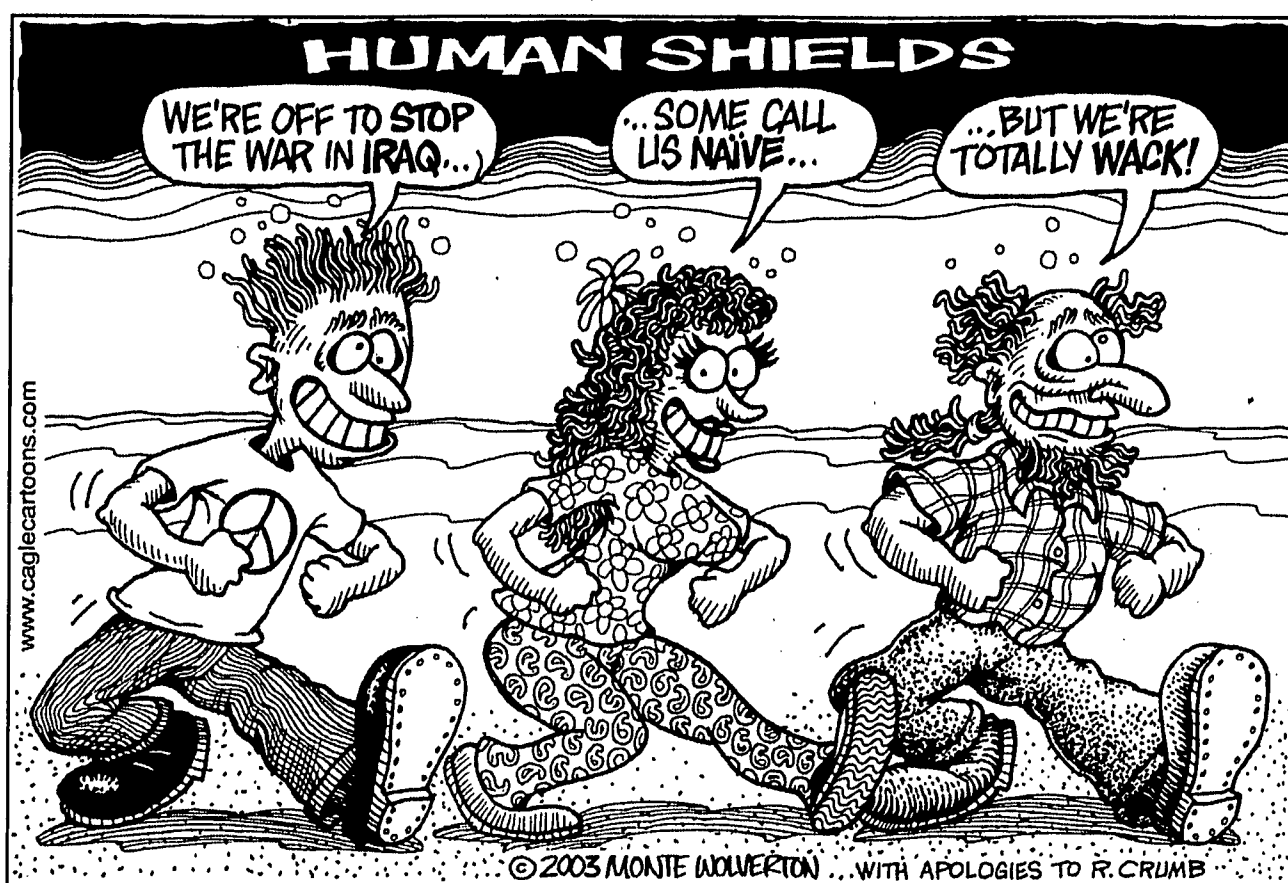
The reason celebrities feel they have a right to share their opinion could have something to do with their inability to understand that the roles they play on TV are fictional positions that hold no authority or status.

For example, every Wednesday night, Martin Sheen is given the opportunity to act as the president of the United States on the show "The West Wing." Sheen is able to control the outcome of the entire country for one hour a week. Off the set, it seems that he has forgotten the fact that he is getting paid to entertain, not to make actual decisions for the country. Sheen has tried to persuade the public by using his celebrity status and money to protest the war during news conferences, parties and protest marches.

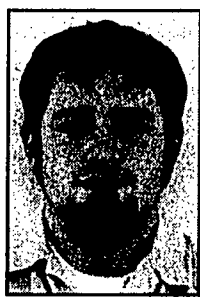
A weekly paycheck the size of a normal citizen's yearly salary does not automatically give these people the right to try and persuade the general public. Although we may not have the 22-car garage and Olympic-sized pool in our backyards, we still have the ability to form our own opinions without the help of others.

While these celebrities have the right to voice their opinions, as any American citizen does, they should not take advantage of their stature in order to persuade others.

Celebrities realize they have the power to control what we watch on TV and in the movies, but let's take away their control of our views on the war by forming our own educated opinions. Leave the celebrities to control our hairstyles and how baggy our jeans are.



The Fire this Time



JED MURR
MISSOURIAN
COLUMNIST

Bush's policies on environment create high risks

Among the many important issues, from our economy to the AIDS crisis, currently being overlooked in the frenzy over the proposed war on Iraq, the environment is certainly one of the most tragic.

President George W. Bush's disastrous environmental record is well known (from Texas to ANWAR, from Yellowstone to Kyoto), but his new strategy on global warming is being rejected with scorn by scientists and even by Bush's favorite today, Tony Blair.

Already, many of you are rolling your eyes and looking for the Stroller's column since anyone who favors national, conservative poli-

cies to sustain our world is often dismissed as radical, unrealistic or even un-American. But we are the people inheriting this mess and our children and grandchildren will suffer from it, so maybe we should pay attention.

Under President Bush, the world's worst greenhouse gas polluter has, among other things, backed out of the Kyoto protocol on global warming, effectively dismantling it. Now the president has replaced the proposed limits on greenhouse gas emissions with a decade-long research program. In other words, he is trying to pose as environmentally responsible while ensuring that it's bad business as usual.

Unfortunately for the president, the panel of experts assembled by the National Academy of Sciences at his request—which even includes Bush-friendly corporate experts—determined last week that his laughable strategy doesn't even possess the "basic elements of a strategic plan: a guiding vision, executable goals, clear timetables and criteria for measuring progress."

One panel member said, "I've been doing ecosystems science for 30 years, and we know what we know and what we don't know...it's almost as if parts of the [Bush] plan were written by people who are totally unfamiliar with where ecosystems science is coming from."

And now Bush's eco-follies are finding opposition from one place he didn't expect it: the Republican Senate. Senator John McCain, the hard-line conservative who has challenged Bush on unnecessary military expenditures, is leading a group of Republicans against Bush's weak clean air policies, Arctic drilling, auto-mileage standards and other issues.

And if the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute's recent "2003 State of the World" report is any indication of the problems we're facing, McCain's nonpartisan bravery could not be more timely.

The diagnosis is grim: according to the report, the human race has, at most, two generations to rescue itself from its nearly imminent destruction.

Pollution, overuse of resources, and destruction of natural areas continue to threaten all the life on earth. Global warming is drastically increasing and the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached its highest level for at least 420,000 years (and probably 20 million).

Around 30 percent of the world's surviving forests are seriously fragmented or degraded, and they are being destroyed at a rate of 50,000 square miles per year. The world's wetlands have been reduced by half over the last century, and coral reefs are rapidly diminishing.

Economic damage from global warming is doubling every 10 years according to the United Nations. One-fifth of the world's people—1.2 billion people—are living in abject poverty, surviving on less than \$1 per day, many of them in land areas that are being degraded due to lack of water. Our world is becoming more and more inequitable and unstable, in part, due to our environmental ignorance and the increasing links between environmental problems and global poverty.

But there is hopeful news: renewable energy technology has been developed sufficiently to be able to supply the world. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, there is not enough political support for the technology to make that a reality.

Demanding sensible environmental policies from our leaders is not unrealistic, radical or un-American—it's absolutely essential. We can certainly not keep the global climate from changing, but we can reasonably work to ensure that changes don't mean massive environmental disasters (which lead to social and political disasters) and eventually, the end of life on our planet.

As Britain's environmental minister puts it, "If we continue with activities which destroy our environment and undermine the conditions for our own survival, we are the virus. Making the change needed to avoid that fate is perhaps the greatest challenge we have ever faced."

Jed Murr can be contacted at 562-1224 or at jmurr@missourianonline.com

Your View

What computer program could you not live without?



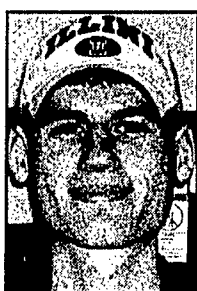
"I couldn't go without playing Snood because it is addictive."

Ian Davidson
UNDECIDED



"The Internet in general."

Jennifer Cameron
MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATH/BUSINESS
EDUCATION



"Solitaire because it keeps me on the ball."

Kenton McDonald
BROADCASTING



"Microsoft Word because how else would I write my papers?"

Lori Stumme
UNDECIDED



"Windows Media Player because I stare at the graphics for hours."

Aaron Switzer
BROADCASTING

Have something to say?

Dial 562-1980



"I think the greatest song ever is 'Killer Tofu' by The Beets."

"Yeah, and maybe we could have gotten K.D. Lang to open for Ani DiFranco. Heavy sarcasm intended."

Comments printed in Backtalk do not represent the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.

The Northwest Missourian is an independent learning environment providing the best source of information and advertising for our community.

Questions? Comments about *The Northwest Missourian*? Story idea? We would like to hear from you. If you do not find the person you need on the right, please contact Bill Knust at 660-562-1224, by fax at 660-562-1521, by e-mail at northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or write us at 800 University Drive, Wells Hall 6, Maryville, MO 64468.

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Letters to the Editor

Student responds to letter, states newspaper's purpose

After reading Chase Cornett's letter to the editor, I became upset. Last time I woke up and looked outside, I lived in the United States where newspapers can print whatever they want (as long as it does not violate libel laws or constitute "fighting words.") I think the best quote from the article is, "My main goal is not to argue the opinion that was published in the paper, but to make sure something like that is never published again."

In other words, the freshman student senator prefers that no one on this campus should have an opinion about anything, let alone feel the need to express it. If I wanted to live in a country where I did not want to hear any opinions that conflicted with my own, I would live in Iraq, Afghanistan or Cuba. You get the picture. I admire the fact that *The Northwest Missourian* has the guts to publish whatever they re-

ceive without editing or filtering it. I read the newspaper to think, not to have a yes man.

Mr. Cornett also reaffirms the fact that Student Senate is indeed out of touch with the student body. He complained the session it held with Linda Girard had a low turnout because *The Missourian* did not give it enough press. I have three points against that: 1) it's not *The Missourian*'s job to duplicate Notices of the Day; 2) it was confusing to have Iraq Monday, Girard Tuesday and Iraq again on Wednesday; and 3) who on campus even knows who Linda Girard is anyway? When I want to know what is happening on campus I read the *Notices of the Day* or *Northwest This Week*. I also look at the fliers around campus. I read the paper for news, not events. Student Senate cannot have a week's worth of panels and expect a huge turnout at each one. Better plan-

ning on their part would have been a key factor. That probably would not have changed the apathy that is rampant on this campus.

Linda Girard is the registrar, but why would I have any questions to ask her? The Northwest Web site has all the forms necessary to graduate. One's adviser is usually the determinant about credits required to graduate. I'm not going to whine to Ms. Girard to remove bad grades on my transcript. I am not going to plead ignorance next year when I have to register to graduate.

All that has been made clear in freshman seminar and in my meetings with my adviser. Student Senate should hold panels with people that have important questions to be answered. Then, maybe people would go.

GRACE JOHNSON
DIETETICS

Regents should seek potential alternatives to banning specials

For once, I agree with the Stroller. The University has no business interfering with the local bars or their specials. While I don't partake in these specials, it is the right of the bar owners to offer them, and the responsibility of the city to deal with that.

If the University wants to have so much say over local establishments, then why not give those same establishments some authority over the University?

But that will never happen, and it shouldn't. The University needs to leave the bars alone and maybe put up more of a campaign to educate students to make smart decisions. That's why we're here, right?

ASHLEY CUNNINGHAM
ENGLISH

Alumnus enjoys weekly tradition

I'd just like to say, as a '95 graduate of Northwest (yes, I'm old), the current Stroller is the best I've encountered.

Each week when I read the Stroller, I'm reminded of the days I enjoyed at Northwest. On top of that, I always laugh until my face turns red. I also like how the Stroller captures the mystique of the campus. I share the Stroller with my Texas friends. They laugh, but certain aspects remain lost to them because they never attended Northwest. Bearcats be shocked, Aggies and Longhorns see no humor in "What would Jesus do? He'd be at Molly's too!"

So, tell the Stroller to keep up the good work. Even in the remote reaches of the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex, a small following is growing daily, although they grasp only half of the humor.

Stay warm, and thanks for the online edition of *The Northwest Missourian*.

MARK MCGAUGH '95
DALLAS, TX

FACULTY/STAFF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear your views on this issue and others. Call *The Missourian* Back Talk line at 562-1980. E-mail your letter to the editor to northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or send it by mail to:

The Northwest Missourian
Wells Hall 6
800 University Drive
Maryville, MO 64468

Letters are limited to 250 words due to space constraints. All letters must be signed; students should include their major. *The Missourian* reserves the right to edit all letters.

MISSOURIAN BACKTALK

The *Missourian* staff reserves the right not to print anonymous personal attacks, libel or slander, and explicit comments.

DUTY from page 1A

Students leave Northwest to prepare for oncoming war

both Hargreaves and Griffin agree it is their right to do so.

"It is every American's duty to question and analyze both sides of every argument," Hargreaves said. "But it is the service people who protect this country that allow them to have that right. It is the right for people not to support the war. But please support the troops because that is somebody's brother, sister, mom or dad out there fighting for you."

Griffin, a field radio operator, said he expects the environment to be completely different if he is forced to leave.

"When you are over there, you are taken away from everything," Griffin

said. "You are all by yourself, and you're scared, you're hungry and you're tired."

Brotherhood and knowing that they are there to do a job will help him through tough times Griffin said.

"Alan (Hargreaves) and I are lucky enough to have two sets of brothers: the brothers in our fraternity and the brothers in our platoon," he said. "What makes it easier is knowing that we are going there to do a job. We are going to protect our country. We are going to protect everything that we love here."

Griffin said, although he does not want to leave, he is prepared to do so. "Someone once asked me, 'Why do

you want to go to war?' I don't want to go to war, but I do want to make a difference," Griffin said. "I feel that if I can change the life of one person then everything that I am doing is worthwhile."

In terms of preparations, Hargreaves flew his sister in from Texas.

"You have to make preparations with your friends and your family because you don't know how long you are going to be gone," Hargreaves said. "It could be a year or possibly more. You just have to make sure that everything is taken care of. It is a lot to throw on someone, especially a young adult."

Griffin, on the other hand, made

preparations of a different sort.

"Nobody wants to think about death, but I had to make a will out at the age of 21," Griffin said. "It was kind of scary."

Brian Haile, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, discussed what it would be for students to see their fellow Bearcats leaving for military service.

"I think that if students have to see someone in their class go off and leave due to the military that it would really personalize the war," Haile said. "They are going to be able to say, 'I know someone fighting in the war.'"



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT GRIFFIN
Scott Griffin, right, and a fellow soldier pose during training at a grenade range in California. As a lance corporal in the Marine Corps and a Northwest student, Griffin said he has two sets of brothers: those in his fraternity and those in his platoon.

WESTERN from page 1A

Name changes for Missouri Western, Southern draw opposition from Northwest

part in the name change.

"In Europe, when you say college, they think it's a high school," Martin said. "European universities want to be sure they know what they're getting, so it would make that easier."

Southern currently has 260 students taking graduate classes, but those classes are offered by other universities.

Tom Vansaghi, vice president for University relations at Northwest, said Southern may have a better chance of getting approved.

"Missouri Southern is having more success (than Western) because they're losing more people to Pittsburg State (University)," Vansaghi said. "The state legislature is more favorable towards that because they're losing students that go across the state line."

SMSU stopped short of new name. At Southwest Missouri State University, officials have been trying to change the name to Missouri State University for 20 years.

Gov. Bob Holden, a Southwest alumnus, proposed the bill when he was a senator in 1983. Since that time,

filibusters have kept the name change from happening.

Last year the proposal was passed two to one in the Senate, but one senator filibustered the name change.

John Keiser, Southwest Missouri State president, said the name change would be appropriate.

"We feel that (the proposed name) is more descriptive of the reality," Keiser said. "We need to make sure the label describes what is in the can, and I think that is the case here."

"We need to make sure the label describes what is in the can, and I think that is the case here."

JOHN KEISER
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE PRESIDENT

said there is something students can do.

"I send out a weekly e-mail (AdvoCATS) and we provide a list of representatives," Vansaghi said. "That way students can contact them and say, 'Can you vote this way?' We want to get students' opinions."

To receive AdvoCATS, call Tom Vansaghi or student assistant Ryann Summerford at 562-1143.

COUNCIL from page 1A

Council hears Molly's owner

"The drink special itself is not the problem," Hoskey said. "We should be trying to attack underage drinking and binge drinking."

Hoskey tried to convince the Council members that his bar was not nearly as bad as what is sensationalized on MTV and other television shows.

In order to prove this point, Hoskey invited the Council members to visit his bar on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights to prove that rules are being enforced during the busiest times.

Hoskey told the Council he is aware under-age drinking does occur. However, he doesn't believe ridding the bars of specials will stop it from happening.

Council members agreed to include Hoskey and other bar owners in any decision-making processes that occur regarding the issue.

City Manager Matt Chesnut, was next to approach the Council regarding the necessity of a new roof for the hangar at the Maryville Memorial Airport.

Chesnut explained the roof was in need of a replacement in order to keep the entire hangar stabilized.

The Council agreed and accepted a bid for Vancleave Roofing to take care of the repairs.

METEORITE from page 1A

Famous meteorite found in area field; could possibly be sold for \$1 million

Oblivious to the rock's rarity or value, Wennihan remained curious about his discovery, eventually saving it in half to reveal an inside comprised of shiny crystals. The new finding was met with only mild interest until last year when it was shown to longtime friend and fellow church member Rogers, a junior wildlife ecology major. Rogers, who is from Craig, was enrolled in a geology class at the time and took an immediate interest in the finding.

The student offered to show the oddity to Richard Felton, assistant professor of geosciences. Upon spending hours cleaning and polishing the rock with Rogers, Felton remained doubtful despite suspicions that it might be a meteorite.

"I was skeptical at first," Felton said. "It took me awhile before I could convince myself. We're just a pretty conservative bunch, and my rule is that extraordinary explanations require extraordinary proof."

To gain further proof, Felton showed the specimen to colleague Renee Rohs, professor of geosciences at Northwest, who immediately recognized the rock as none other than a stony iron meteorite.

Upon assurance that the rock was indeed a rarity, pieces of the meteorite were then insured for \$2,500 and shipped to the University of New Mexico and the University of California at Los Angeles for further study. It was then learned that the meteorite was unlike any other on

earth, resulting in its astronomical value.

Estimation of the Milton meteorite's value is based on that of the Eagle Station meteorite found in Kentucky in 1880, it's worth being estimated at \$500 per gram. After donating small portions of the Milton meteorite to Northwest, UNM and UCLA, 1,800 grams, or four pounds, remain of the Milton meteorite. It is now shared evenly between Wennihan and Rogers. Both said that while no concrete offers have been made for its supposed \$1 million value, both would be interested in selling the Milton meteorite if the price is right.

"It could be (worth \$1 million); it's speculation," Rogers said. "If somebody wants to offer that much, good for them. We don't exactly know a price. There really isn't a set market for it since there's never been anything sold like this before."

Wennihan now shows the Milton meteorite to schools and interested civic groups between his and Rogers's upcoming interviews with CNN and ABC among others.

Both agreed the thrill of the discovery has most definitely been worth a closer eyeing of each stone retrieved from Wennihan's soybean field.

"The neatest thing of it all is that this rock here on earth was part of an asteroid," Wennihan said. "It's not every day that you can hold something from outer space in your hands."

BOOTH from page 1A

University seeks dean replacement

anytime there is a leader of that level, you are going to feel some loss because there is the issue of longevity, the issue of the service to the University and what he accomplished," she said. "However, I also look at it and think of the future for Northwest. We are going to have those things again in time."

Barnes said the best candidate for the position, whether hired internally or externally, must possess strong leadership skills.

"I think it is advantageous to look within because we have some outstanding faculty and staff at Northwest who are highly capable," Barnes said. "But it's probably not healthy in the long run for a university to hire entirely within."

However, with the Board's approval of the plan, Barnes believes the University will have the advantage of producing their own senior leaders, "but it's probably not good to grow a 100 percent of your own," he said.

"I think we need a mix," Barnes said. "I think it's good to develop our own leaders because they definitely understand our culture of Northwest. But, at the same time, I think it's good to bring in fresh blood with ideas that are picked up outside of Northwest."

Barnes said if the search committee decides not to hire a dean, the University will revert to Plan B which is hiring an interim dean to fill the position until a replacement is found.

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Had your fill of the 'Ville?

Take a break from March 15 to 23

By MONICA CALDWELL
FEATURES EDITOR

Now is the time;
here are the places

For the two months of classes, tests and projects following Christmas break, many students look forward to March for a reprieve not only from schoolwork, but also occasionally from the weather.

Given Maryville's frigid winters and gusty winds, places like Jamaica, the Bahamas and Cancun, Mexico, offer warmth, sunshine and beaches slightly more authentic than the one at Mozingo Lake.

"We're going to get away from Missouri, the Midwest, and go somewhere with a beach and the sun," said physical education major Kyla Foraker about her group trip to Cancun. "Just to get out and have fun, get away from Town Square."

Students from across the country flock to such exotic

destinations to mingle, sightsee and experience the nightlife. Cities outside of the United States generally allow alcohol purchase and consumption at 18 instead of 21.

Dance clubs in Amsterdam, Holland, and Sydney, Australia, host large crowds every night during spring break season as do the more local cities of South Padre Island, Texas, and San Francisco.

However, some choose to visit the mountains instead of the beaches. Aspen, Colo., and Banff in Alberta, Canada, are home to numerous resorts and winter sports competitions. Skiing and snowboarding are popular ways to pass the time in the Rockies.

Besides sand and snow, there are the casinos of Las Vegas, the hustle and bustle of New York

and the accents of Europe.

Keely Burns, public relations major, and four friends are planning a road trip through the western states, including stops at the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas.

It will be "kind of like a last something before everyone's in the real world," she said. "As stupid as it sounds, I'm excited about actually driving in the car with everyone and talking and bonding more than actually seeing anything."

Spring break offers something for everyone in need of culture, entertainment or a legal shot of whiskey. Plane tickets and hotels may put a dent in some pockets, but for many, it is a small price to pay for a week away from Midwestern routine.

Ft. Lauderdale

Those visiting this Florida town can learn to sail the ocean waters or shop at the world's largest outlet mall, Sawgrass Mills. In the evening, patronize O'Hara's Pub and sing karaoke at Howl at the Moon.

Dublin, Ireland

Ireland has more than Guinness, tankards and pubs. Tour Temple Bar and Dublin Castle, or visit the Crypt Theater to meet locals. Dublin college students frequent Café-en-Seine, and Kitchen is owned by the native Irish band U2.

South Padre Island

Tourists can visit Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark, South Padre Island Golf Club or the beautiful beaches. Ben's Fun & Sun offers go-cart and four-wheeler rentals, and night owls can enjoy themselves at Club X/S, Dirty Dave's Deck or Padre Cantina.

Paris

Besides the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Notre Dame de Paris, this city is also home to Disneyland Paris and the Arc de Triomphe. It provides numerous bars and clubs such as the Moulin Rouge and the Buddha Bar as well.

Banff, Alberta, Canada

Border-crossers can visit the world's largest indoor shopping and entertainment complex, complete with an indoor roller coaster and bungee jumping. Sunshine Village and Banff Mount Norquay offer slopes for all levels of skiers.

Los Angeles

Those traveling to Los Angeles can see the Guinness World Record Museum, take a tour in a blimp or learn to hang glide. 'Nightsports include Whisky a Go Go, Club Sugar and The Derby.

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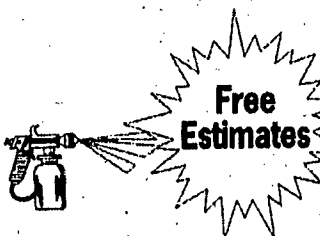
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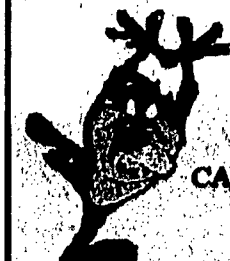
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Punzo takes the helm

Punzo and softball team prepare for the challenges that await in her first season at Northwest

By CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

With a new season comes new expectations for teams, a new start, and for this year's softball squad, also a new head coach.

Susan Punzo was named Northwest's eighth head softball coach last summer, replacing former head coach Pam Knox, who left Northwest to take a coaching job in Oregon.

Punzo said she found the transition from Dakota State University to Northwest easier because of the staff members at the University.

"Everybody here at Northwest, I've got to give a big thank you," she said. "They welcomed me with open arms, and they helped me in whatever capacity."

Punzo also said she was able to adjust easily to the members of the softball team.

"I definitely feel like I'm settled in," she said. "I've really gotten to know the players."

Punzo left her mark on the Dakota State University program and did it in little time. In two seasons there, she compiled a 36-36 record.

She took over the DSU program after the team finished the 2000 season at 5-20. By her second and last season, she led the Trojans to a 25-13 record and the program's first ever appearance in the NAIA regional tournament.

But time in a solid MIAA conference is nothing new to Punzo. She knows the conference all too well. Punzo played her collegiate career at Central Missouri State University. There she earned All-American honors twice and led the Jennies to three MIAA conference championships.

Now, Punzo is ready to start a new era in the conference.

"I'm very, very anxious," Punzo said. "We're just tired of being inside. We're ready to get outside."

Punzo takes over a team that finished the 2002

campaign 29-15 overall and third in the MIAA. Punzo said there will be pressure to keep the program near the top of the conference and even challenge for the MIAA title.

"There is always pressure," Punzo said. "(Northwest) had a great season last year. They had a great squad."

Although Punzo's career at Northwest has just begun, she has already impacted the team.

"She is a great coach," senior Kelley Carter said. "She is always behind us when we have a problem and is very helpful."

One of the reasons for Punzo's influence on the team is because of the fact she was playing in the same conference not long ago.

"We have been able to click with her because she knows where we come from," sophomore Lindsey Crouse said. "She was our age not too long ago."

2003 Season Outlook

The Bearcats come into the new season picked to finish fourth in the MIAA behind Central, Washburn and Truman State.

The Bearcats will rely on their defense and their bats to be successful this season.

The team returns many of last season's top hitters including junior Angie McCoy, who led the team in batting average (.387). McCoy led the team in home runs (10), hits (60) and doubles (15).

The team also returns four other of its top hitters from last season.

"We have a lot of players that can hit real well," sophomore Kristina Dillon said. "Our bats will definitely help us do as good as last season, if not better."

Most of last year's infield is still intact with the likes of Crouse, Dillon, Melissa Nimmo and Tara Risetter returning.

"Our strength is our defense," Punzo said. "Melissa Nimmo can cover a lot of ground. The defense will help us out a lot this season."

Pitching might be a concern for the Bearcats this season. The team returns sophomores Jacqui Handlos and Shelly MacDonald who combined for 13 wins as freshmen last season. However, those are the only two pitchers on this year's roster.

Clark Grell can be contacted at 562-1224 or cgrell@missourianonline.com

'CATS TO REMEMBER

Any of the 16 Bearcats on the roster are capable of breaking out and having big seasons. Here are four names that might be heard several times throughout the season.

No. 7 - Angie McCoy, jr. outfielder

| Career stats | Avg. | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI |
|--------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 2002 | .387 | 12 | 60 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 38 |
| 2001 | .308 | 36 | 40 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 20 |

The bottom line:

McCoy had a break-out season as a sophomore. She improved in almost every statistical category. McCoy has started every game since she started her collegiate career at Northwest.

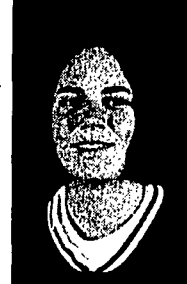


No. 16 - Megan Spring, jr. catcher

| Career stats | Avg. | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI |
|--------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 2002 | .336 | 29 | 44 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 33 |
| 2001 | .328 | 14 | 39 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 17 |

The bottom line:

Spring is a threat at the plate and behind the plate. She has started in all 82 games in which she has played at Northwest. She has a career batting average of .332 in her two years as a Bearcat.

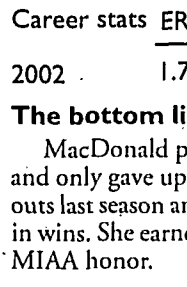


No. 10 - Shelly MacDonald, so. pitcher

| Career stats | ERA | W-L | App. | CG | BB | SO |
|--------------|------|-----|------|----|----|----|
| 2002 | 1.72 | 8-2 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 23 |

The bottom line:

MacDonald pitched 65 innings last season and only gave up six walks. She had two shut-outs last season and ranked second on the team in wins. She earned an honorable mention All-MIAA honor.



No. 5 - Lindsay Stephenson, fr. outfielder

The bottom line:

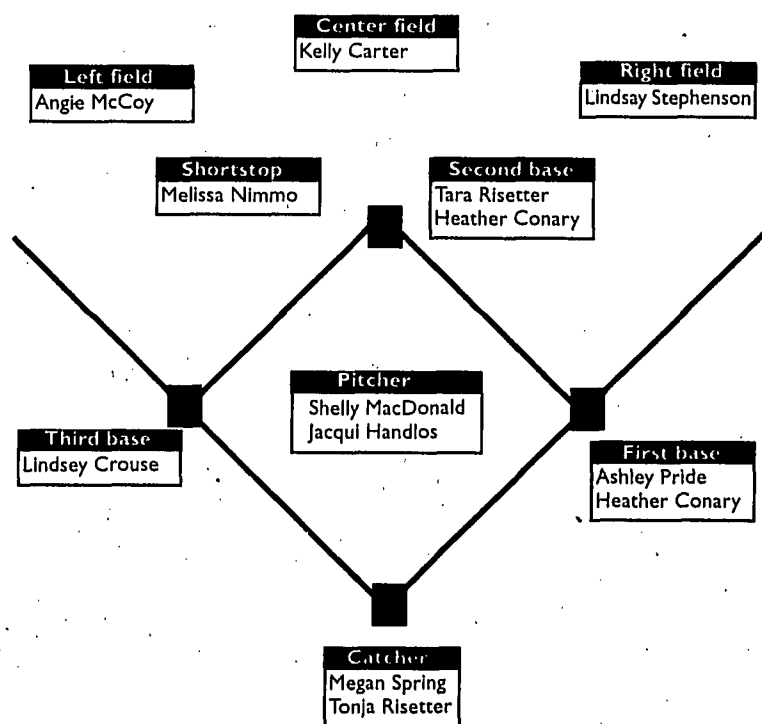
Stephenson is a freshman from Millard North High School in Omaha, Neb. She was a three-year letterwinner and was named as the team's Most Valuable Player her senior season. She was named to the first-team all-metro and second-team all-state as a senior.

Head coach Susan Punzo said Stephenson will make an impact immediately, possibly in the starting lineup.



'CATS IN THE FIELD

Here is a look the possible season starters for the Bearcat softball team this season.



Senior anticipates last year at Northwest

Carter hopes her best season is yet to come as she enters her final season as a Bearcat

By CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior outfielder Kelly Carter stands alone in the distant outfield every outing. She also stands alone in her class.

That's because Carter is the only senior on the softball roster this season.

"She is a good leader," head coach Susan Punzo said. "She is a great senior to have on our team, not only as an athlete, but as a person as

well."

Punzo said Carter is not a typical leader.

"Kelly is a quiet leader," Punzo said. "She takes charge, and she leads by example."

Seniors on any team are known to take the leadership role, but Carter said she is not the only leader on the team.

"There is not so much pressure on myself," Carter said. "We have a lot of leaders on this team. It takes more than one person to lead the team."

The Excelsior Springs native returns for her final season after earning MIAA honorable-mention honors last season as a junior. She started all 44 games for the Bearcats and finished second on the team in runs scored (29), sec-

ond in stolen bases (11) and second in walks (11).

As a sophomore Carter earned first team All-MIAA, leading the team in runs scored (24) and walks (10).

But that is not enough for Carter. She wants to top last year's performance.

"It would be nice for me to have my best season of my career," Carter said.

Carter started in 137 of 139 games in her three years at Northwest. Despite that many games, Carter said her career at



Carter

Northwest has flown by.

"I'm not ready to graduate," Carter said. "If I could, I'd play softball for two more years."

Carter will get one more shot to lead the Bearcats to their first MIAA title since 1999 and Carter could have what it takes to get the Bearcats there. She led Excelsior Springs to the Missouri Class 3A Championship in 1998.

Carter said the team has what it takes to make a run for conference title in Punzo's first season as head coach.

"We have a lot of experience," Carter said. "I feel we'll be all right. It would be nice to win more games than last season and play good softball the entire season."

Clark Grell can be contacted at 562-1224 or cgrell@missourianonline.com

Western's fast start prevents Bearcats from picking up road win

Northwest digs hole early in sixth conference loss of the season

By CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

The road has proven unkind for the men's basketball team this season.

The Bearcats dropped their 6th conference road game of the season to Missouri Western State College Saturday, losing 77-65.

A dunk by Western's Larry Tay-

lor in the game's opening moments was the start of a long night for the Bearcats.

"They just came out with a lot more intensity and emotion," senior guard Scott Fleming said. "They were a lot more ready to play at the beginning than we were."

Western jumped out to an early advantage, rarely missing a shot. By the midway point of the first half, the Griffons, who finished the game shooting 50 percent from the field, had a 22-9 lead.

"We dug ourselves a hole and had a hard time coming back the whole game," Fleming said.



The 'Cats would be down by as many as 17 points in the first

half before slowly clawing their way back.

A jumper by senior Joel Yeldell and a dunk by senior Floyd Jones cut the deficit to nine before Western's Damon Bailey scored two to help Western to a 38-27 lead at halftime.

"We couldn't get a defensive stop when we needed to," Fleming said. "Every time we did something good on offense, they'd come down and hit a three. They just did a good job breaking our momentum when we got something going."

The Bearcats were unable to manage any kind of comeback in the second half. Much of that was because of 18 percent shooting from

| In depth vs. Western | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| 65 | Score 77 |
| 40.3 | Field goal pct. 50.9 |
| 26.3 | 3-point pct. 35.0 |
| 36 | Total rebounds 33 |
| 15 | FT attempted 17 |
| 10 | FT made 14 |
| 11 | Turnovers 11 |
| 20 | Bench scoring 11 |

beyond the arc in the second half. The Griffons held a 14-point lead early in the second half before

Fleming scored on a tip-in to make it 47-35.

Fleming and sophomore Jesse Shaw were the only two Bearcats to score in the second half until the 7:26 mark when junior Kelvin Parker scored on a lay-up.

The Bearcats were able to chip away at an 18-point lead, but it was too little too late.

Fleming led the Bearcats in scoring, finishing with 16 points. Fourteen of those points came in the second half. Shaw and Parker also finished in double figures, scoring 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Bailey finished with a game-high 23 points on Senior Night for the Western basketball teams.



PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/EDITOR IN CHIEF
Senior guard Scott Fleming stretches for a layup in the Bearcats' loss at Western Saturday. Fleming scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half.

Inside

| | |
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| Women's basketball | 2B |
| Indoor track | 2B |
| Northwest baseball | 3B |
| Northwest tennis | 2B |
| Ranting and Raving | 3B |
| Girls' basketball | 2B |

Northwest baseball

The Bearcats are in Georgia this weekend taking part in the Armstrong Atlantic Tournament. Turn to page 3B to find out how the Bearcats fared in a series of ball games this weekend.



Northwest tennis

The women open up play today at Western. To find out how the men did in Joplin over the weekend, turn to page 2B.



Women's basketball

The Lady 'Cats finished the regular season in St. Joseph last Saturday. To find out why the Bearcats found a seven-point loss to Western disappointing, turn to page 2B.

Women netters start season with trip to Missouri Western

By BILL KNUST
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The women's tennis team will take to the courts today for their season opener with Missouri Western State College.

Head coach Mark Rosewell said it will be good for the women to get the season started.

"They need to play and Missouri Western is a good one," Rosewell said. "This is my 19th year here, and we've beat them 17 straight years. That's a good conference match for us, and we will get good competition over in Topeka when we play the Colorado schools."

The women open the season looking to go for a third straight MIAA title.

The men's tennis team could not have found a tougher opponent for their season opening match.

The Bearcats dropped a pair of matches (6-0, 6-0) to No. 1 ranked Drury University and No. 11 ranked Ouachita Baptist (Arkansas).

Even though the men had little luck during the weekend, Rosewell said the team learned some things.

"The guys don't always know the (competition) that they are playing," Rosewell said. "When they can play the No. 1 team in the nation they see what it takes to win the national championship."

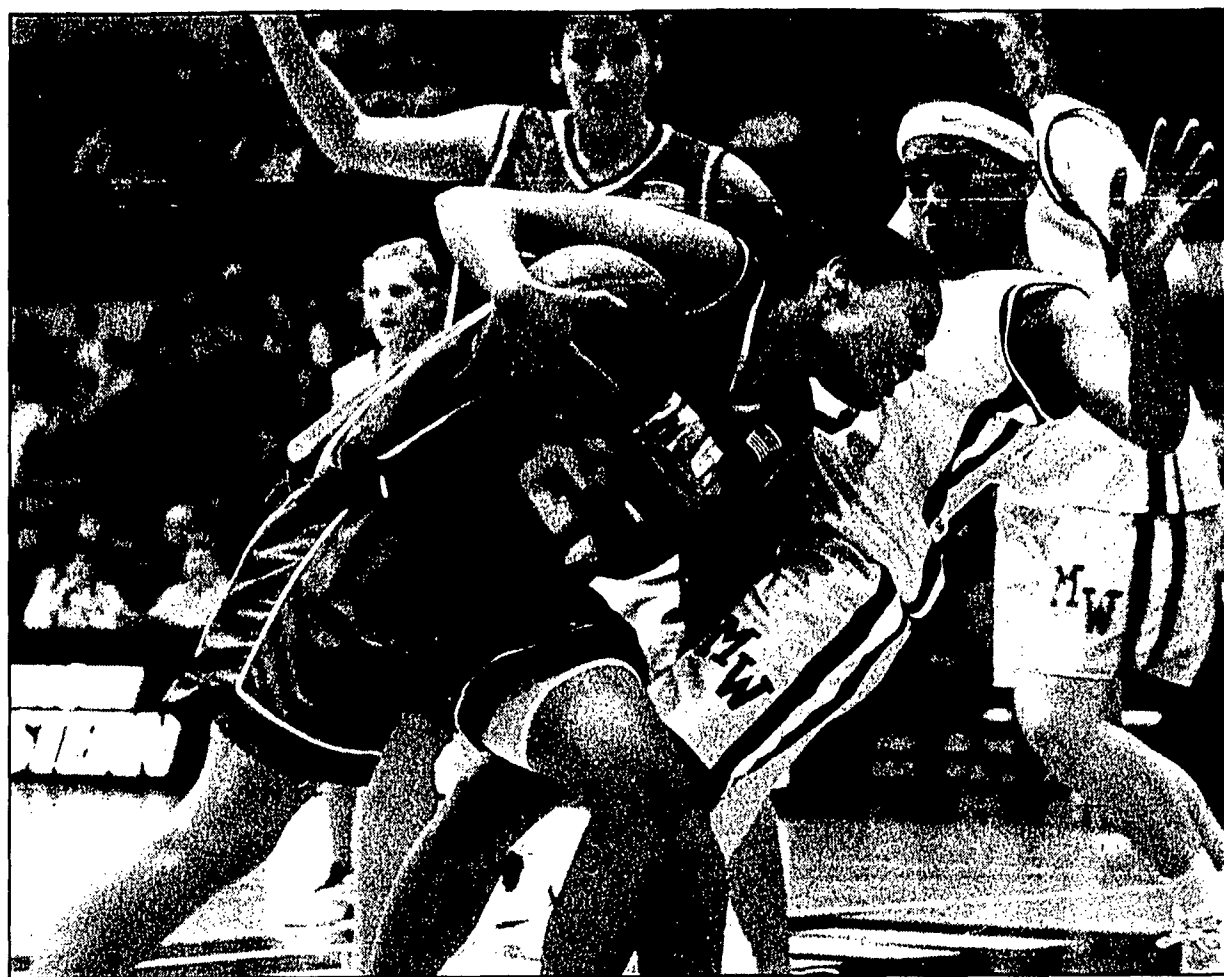
One player who is searching for a national championship is Northwest's No. 1 singles player, senior Jon Sanchez. Sanchez lost his match to the No. 7 ranked singles player in Division II, Jeremy Blandin, 7-6 and 6-3.

"In the first set, I was playing pretty good, but I got tired in the second set," Sanchez said. "I am not really 100 percent in my conditioning, but I played pretty good. I was happy."

Rosewell was also impressed by the play of junior Allen Horver. Horver lost his match to the No. 3 singles player for Drury, Javier Llanes, 6-3, 6-4. Llanes is ranked in the top 25 players in the country, Rosewell said.

The men have a big weekend in Topeka, Kan. They will face off with Metro State University (Colo.), Southern Colorado and Northern Colorado University in matches with regional implications.

"These matches are really important for us to host a regional championship and maybe make the national tournament," Sanchez said.



Junior forward Tanisha Fields attempts to drive to the basket against a Western opponent Saturday in the season finale. The 'Cats fell to the Griffons 86-79. Junior Jenna Wolfe led the way for Northwest with 15 points.

PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/EDITOR IN CHIEF

Close is not good enough for 'Cats

By CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

A seven-point loss in St. Joseph to Missouri Western State College would not usually seem disappointing.

After all, the Northwest women's basketball team have, at times, lost by more than 20 points at Western in years past.

However, Northwest's 86-79 loss to Western Saturday was not much of a momentum booster.

"It's a disappointing loss because we had the opportunity to qualify for the national tournament," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "We had the chance to climb (into the top eight), and the loss pretty much ended that possibility."

Northwest went into the game ranked No. 10 in the South Regional. Now, in order for the Bearcats to reach the regional tournament, they must win the conference tournament.

"This gives us a lot of confidence, but we should have won that," junior forward Jenna Wolfe said. "We were up most of the first half. It's hard whenever you lose, especially when you play your heart out."

The Bearcats went into halftime with a 40-38 lead.

Northwest held a 53-47 lead over the Griffons with 16:47 remaining, but senior Sarah Vollertsen picked up her fourth foul shortly after that and was forced to sit on the bench for a good remainder of the game.

Once Vollertsen was out, the Griffons took advantage on the boards and on the scoreboard.

The Griffons regained the lead at 62-60 with 11 minutes remaining and never looked back after that.

"Offensive boards is what beat us," Steinmeyer said. "They killed us there once Vollertsen went out with foul trouble."

The Griffons grabbed 47 rebounds

compared to 36 for Northwest. But it was the charity stripe that gave the Griffons a decisive edge.

Wolfe led the Bearcats in scoring, finishing with 16 points followed by a 13-point by Vollertsen.

The loss comes immediately after the Bearcats held Emporia State University to 50 points just three nights before.

"I was pleased with the offense, but giving up 86 points, we go from the high to the low there," Steinmeyer said. "We held a great offensive team in Emporia to 50 points and give up 86 tonight. That's a little disheartening."

However, despite allowing 86 points, the Bearcats were able to stay in the game with the nationally ranked Griffons.

"I think we could have hung with them no matter how many points they scored," Wolfe said. "I just wish it would have been them hanging with us."

Tracksters place second in MIAA Championships

By COLE YOUNG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The MIAA Indoor championships finished the same way they have for the last seven years, with Central Missouri State on top.

Though the Northwest men were unable to capture the team crown, the weekend did include several notable performances by the Bearcats.

Leading the way for Northwest was sprinter Gabriel Helms. Helms cruised to victories in the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes with times of 6.86 and 21.81 seconds, respectively.

"I don't think we've seen the best out of Gabriel," said Rich Alsop, men's track coach. "In the last two meets, he really hasn't had a lot of competition. He was able to run a 21.81 in the 200 and he coasted the last 10 meters."

In addition to Helms, throwers Daniel McKim and Clint Prange as well as jumper Jamaica Rector qualified for nationals on the men's side.

McKim and Prange earned first and second place in the shot put. McKim also received second place in the weight throw.

"Dan and Clint are the type of guys who live in the weight room," Alsop said.

"They are the types of guys you love to coach no matter how they do they always feel like they could do better."

At nationals, finishing in the top eight earns an athlete All-American status. For McKim, the chance to be considered an All-American is a season-long goal.

"I've been hoping and praying all season," McKim said, "that I'd have the opportunity to go to nationals, and if I can finish in the top eight, it would be awesome."

The chances for McKim and Prange to earn the All-American status aren't so far-fetched. McKim ranks fourth nationally and Prange fifth.

The women did not fare quite as well at the conference meet. But despite finishing fourth, coach Vickie Wooton was pleased with the team's performance.

"I didn't expect us to finish as close to third as we did," Wooton said. "We had a lot of girls in the field events step up though, and that really helped."

Pole vaulter Jenny Simmons was one athlete in the field events who helped secure the fourth place finish. In addition to that, Simmons qualified for nationals.

"I was only one height away from being All-American last year, so I really feel like I can do well this year," Simmons said.

'Hounds find no problem with Cameron

By BRIAN JOHNSON
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Different game, same outcome. That was the story of Monday's game as the Maryville girls basketball team beat the Cameron Dragons, 73-21, in the quarterfinals of the Class 3 District 16 tournament.

Last week the 'Hounds easily defeated Cameron at home. With district play to begin, the 'Hounds thought Cameron would be fired up to play the Hounds.

In the first quarter, it looked like Cameron was fired up and only down 11 at the end of the quarter. But in the second quarter, what little intensity they had diminished when the 'Hounds went on a 17-4 tear to end the half with a 39-9 margin.

"They were close in the beginning," head coach Randy Cook said. "But, we

started to play our style of basketball and had things in control."

According to Cook, one of the reasons why the 'Hounds had a great day was because of their practicing, which was the best week of practice that they had.

"We had a few days off," Cook said. "Then we started working on our game. Working on running up and down the court."

Even though last week the 'Hounds beat Cameron handily, did do anything differently in this game?

"No," Cook said. "We didn't do anything differently from the last game. We just did what we did in the last game and it worked."

The leading scores for the 'Hounds were Cauleen Bradley who had 18 points and Hilary Reynolds with 10.

Next up for the 'Hounds is a semifinal game against Hamilton.

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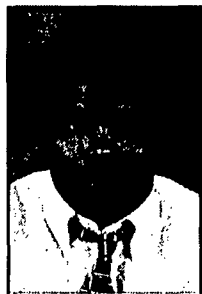
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PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Gabriel Helms

Helms, a junior won the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes at the conference meet in Warrensburg Saturday. Helms now heads to indoor nationals in Boston.

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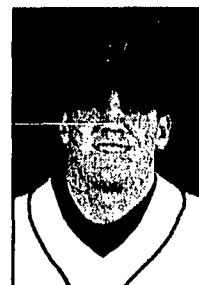
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Northwest pitcher Brett Rust pitched a complete-game shutout against Marcyhurst Coll. in Savannah. Rust allowed only three runs in his second win of the season.



Brett Rust

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ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACKS

How do you think the men and women will fare in the MIAA tournament?



"Great, I guess. I really haven't been following them."

JAKE HARLAN
VOCAL MUSIC
EDUCATION



"That's a difficult question. I've been going to the games, and I think they'll do well. I hope they'll do well. I think that they'll do well because of the pressure."

MEGAN RAMOS
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS



"They're going to choke. Wait, are you going to take my picture? Well, then they're going to do great."

DANIEL WILLIAMS
DIETETICS

RANTING AND RAVING

Editor believes player should respect flag



By BILL KNUST
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I am writing this column while wondering why anyone from the University of Missouri-Rolla or Central Missouri State University would spend \$35 to watch their team lose the opening game in the MIAA Tournament then go home.

Apparently, in another genius move by the MIAA there are going to be no single game tickets sold for the tournament this season, only session

passes worth \$35. I am still trying to figure it out, but that's not what I am going to bore you with this week.

Instead, I will pick the current hot topic in the world of sports, Toni Smith. Surely you have seen her all over ESPN's SportsCenter for her refusal to face the flag during the National Anthem.

Toni Smith is what makes America great. She is exercising her First Amendment right of free speech, and I think that is great, but I think Ms. Smith is confused on what Ol' Glory really stands for.

In a written statement, Smith explained her reasons for not facing the flag.

"For some time now, the inequalities that are embedded into the American system have bothered me," Smith said. "As they are becoming progressively worse and it is clear that the government's priorities are not on bettering the quality of life for all of its people, but rather on expanding its own power, I cannot, in good conscience, salute the flag."

I think Smith is wrong. To me, the American flag stands for the people who died in every war this country has fought in to preserve our rights, liberties and freedoms.

The flag does not stand for government policy. Other White House interns did not turn away from the flag during the Clinton Administration because he was having sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky in the Oval Office.

That was an "inequality embedded in the American system."

If Smith wants to protest the war I am all for it. Knock yourself out, Toni. But to protest by not facing the flag is ridiculous to me.

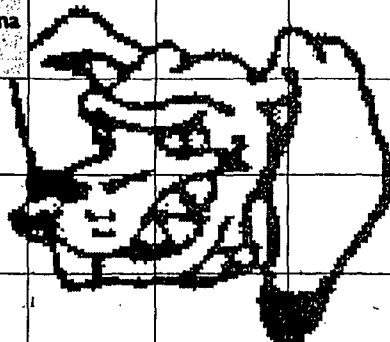
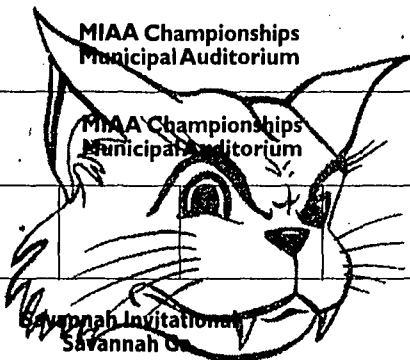
She could march with protesters or wear a shirt protesting the war like NBA player Steve Nash recently did at a postgame press conference.

Citizens of America have it so good because we can protest events like Smith has. But those freedoms have caused Smith to lose vision of what this country's greatest symbol really means.

FAN PLAN

Home games

| | TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| Northwest men's basketball | | | | | | | |
| Northwest women's basketball | | | | | | | |
| Northwest indoor track & field | | | | | | | |
| Northwest baseball | | | | | | | Nebraska-Omaha 1 p.m. |
| Northwest softball | | | Missouri Southern | Augustana 1 p.m. | | | |
| Northwest tennis | | | Southern Colorado | Northern Colorado | | | |
| Maryville boys' basketball | | | | | | | |
| Maryville girls' basketball | | | | | | | |



SPORTS IN BRIEF

Baseball sign-ups slated

The Maryville Youth Baseball Association will be holding signups on Sunday, at Davison Square, located off of Laura Street, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The league is open to athletes born between July 31, 1994, and August 1, 1990.

Registration for the league is \$75.00 per player and must be paid at the time of registration. Included in the registration fee is a field fee, accident and liability insurance as well as a t-shirt.

In addition to registration, players must participate in tryouts.

For more information parents are encouraged to contact League President Dave Merrill at 582-4051.

Press conference scheduled

A press conference has been scheduled for tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. at the Downtown Marriott in Kansas City, Mo.

At the press conference Pittsburg State is expected to announce that the game between Northwest and Pitt originally scheduled to take place in Pittsburg will be at Arrowhead Stadium.

On October 17, the two teams faced each other in the inaugural "Clash of the Champions" in which Northwest was victorious 29-7.

MIAA names Helms Co-Athlete of the Week

After winning two events at the MIAA Indoor Championships last weekend, junior Gabriel Helms was named Co-Athlete of the Week with Jarod Wall of Central Missouri State.

Helms won the 60-meter dash with a meet-record time of 6.86 seconds. He will be competing in the Division II Nationals after qualifying provisionally with the run. Helms also won the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.81 seconds.

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Stroller demands freshman fear

While making no attempt at passing college during the completion of my final general education requirement, a sudden epiphany has dawned on your Stroller as I scratch myself in biology and wish for a life which doesn't so closely resemble hell.

With reckless abandon and gleeful prejudice, I have finally realized that I wait an entire group of people. Wait, let me rephrase: I hate all freshmen.

Allow me to side-step for a moment to proclaim that, for the record, Your Man really does go out of his way to be a pretty decent dude to all. It's common knowledge that no one likes a jerk. Except, of course, for football groupies. But hey, it's a free country. For now. (By the way, a word to the not-so-wise, ladies: if you want to be a respectable groupie, ditch the boys who buy your type and go for the big Northwest names like, um, Coolio.)

Besides, I've got to be nice. It's the only way to make up for really getting screwed out of good looks and brains in the ever-so-cruel gene pool.

Despite my attempts since August to be an accepting upperclassman, it seems this year's crop of fresh meat still doesn't get it. Although the spring trimester is drawing to a close, they continue to piss me off.

Yes, the little bastards are bold, it seems. From their constantly ringing cell phones to their banana-yellow Mustangs that have



The Stroller

nearly rendered me a quadriplegic as they zoom across campus to the way they walk with their eyes not averted to the ground, it's obvious they have no respect whatsoever. And that's just outside the classroom.

In our learning environments, the cycle continues. They shower in the morning. They complete their assignments, and most devastating to your Stroller who puts in just enough effort not to get kicked out of this academic oasis we call Northwest, they really screw the biology curve.

I suppose I could cite hundreds of other reasons for their inferiority to myself, but, deep in the cockles of my big heart, Your Man knows the truth. It's because I never had the guts to act the way they do.

Much like every week's steaming pile of literary genius, it seems that envy is also the root to this week's rant on this diseased epidemic we call freshmen. I'm insanely jealous that I was forced, by my own lack of self-esteem, to wait a few years before I could be nearly as arrogant, annoying and

obnoxious as they currently are. And even now, I do it anonymously.

So who is at fault here, upperclassmen? It seems we have slipped up in showing our not-so-newcomers who is boss. We've failed to correctly show them the ropes, in the meantime allowing them to grow, maintain and possess the proper virtues that prepare them for a successful future. Most important among them: confidence and self-esteem.

Therefore, we must utilize what little valuable time we have left to make our freshmen earn what they already have. Let's give our freshmen a hard time. Instill in them fear and respect for you. Force them to buy you Domino's with their Aladine cards. Make them purposely fail biology tests so as to appease you. We must make up for lost time in torturing them, as well as justifying the torture I—er—we went through as freshmen.

As for you, first year students, be wary of the near future, yet remain optimistic. You'll soon be sophomores, and then you'll foster the same revulsion for those below you. While it seems unfair, the world has shown us all that happiness and contentment don't come easily. You must work for your reward, and you'll reap the benefits being able to bully others no matter how big a loser I—er, you—may be.

But for now, I still hate you.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Buzz Review

Martial arts meets gangsta rap in action film 'Cradle 2 the Grave'

By LESLEE KAMMERER
ONLINE ASSISTANT

Everybody was kung fu fighting, like Jet Li, rapper DMX, Mark Dacascos, Anthony Anderson and Gabrielle Union in "Cradle 2 the Grave."

Surprisingly, the movie was not that bad. I actually enjoyed it and would recommend seeing it. I have to admit I did not have high expectations because I have never seen any movies starring Jet Li or DMX.

There were some awesome fight scenes and some wild police chases in the film along with stealing, kidnapping, boxing, martial arts and strip-teasing scenes. The movie is rated R for violence, language and some sexual content.

Jet Li is absolutely incredible. He is a world-renowned martial arts master most everyone in recent films. He starred such as "Kiss of the Dragon," "The Matrix," "The One," "Romeo Must Die," and "Lethal Weapon 4."

Check out more reviews of movies, music and television on the Buzz at missourianonline.com

The chick in the movie is Gabrielle Union who recently finished filming "Bad Boys 2" opposite Will Smith.

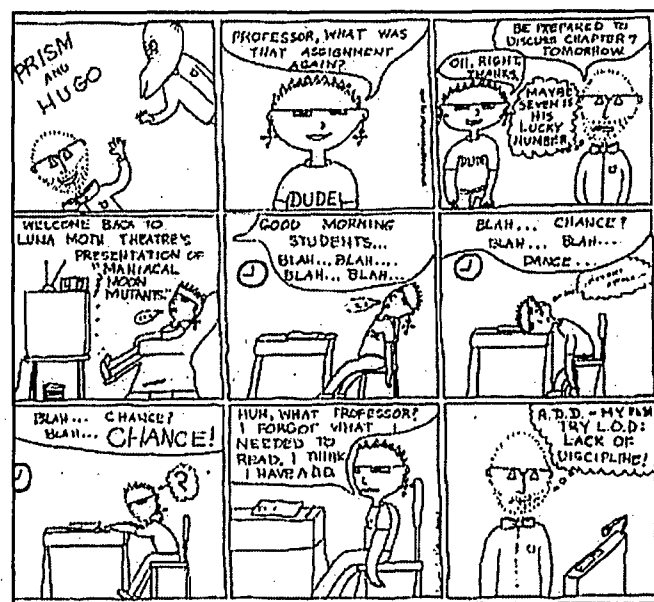
The plot of the story revolves around DMX searching for his kidnapped daughter, and, with the help of Jet Li, they find her and recapture some precious stones.

I know it doesn't sound that interesting, but it really was pretty good. Aside from awesome cars and a cool police car, four-wheeler and dirt bike chase scene, there were a lot of incredible martial arts scenes where Li got to show off his talent.

If you like action-packed, butt-whoopin' films with good music like Eminem and DMX, then you will like "Cradle 2 the Grave."

"Cradle 2 the Grave" is now playing at the Hangar.

Leslee Kammerer can be contacted at 562-1224 or lkammerer@missourianonline.com



Write a Review

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Are you into music, movies or television?

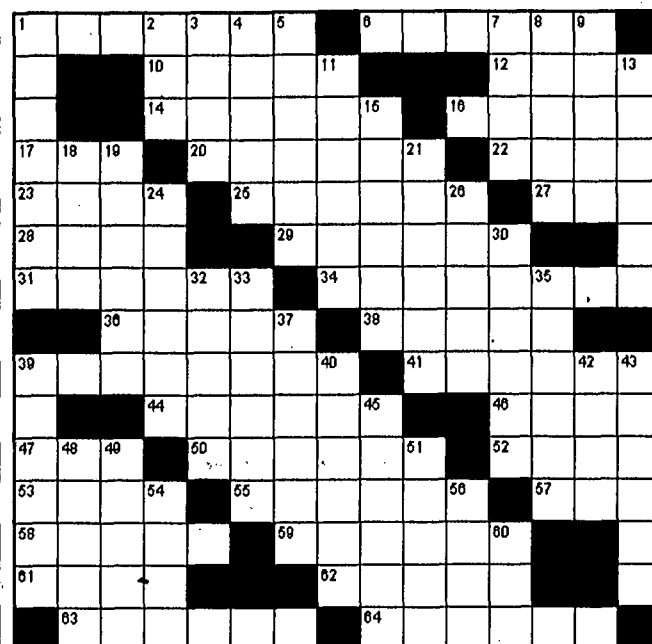
Have you seen a new movie or television show?

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD



Across

- Brief passing look
- Indian leader
- Killer whales
- Hazard
- Animal that catches mice
- Sphygmus
- Incline head
- Expensive
- Small secluded valley
- Stains
- Passion
- Transgression

Down

28. Skin
29. Smelt
31. Blues
34. Having three foci
36. Donates
38. Bowel treatment
39. One who gets ready
41. Grains for grinding
44. Prepared for publication
46. The lowest tide
47. Chafe
50. Consumes
- (4,2) 52. Respiratory organ of fish
53. Rounded lump
55. Communication
57. New (prefix) work
59. Commando
61. Southeast by east
62. Lotto
63. Read again
64. Adagio

- Father's father
- Mother
- Support
- Dandruff
- Simpler
- Medicine
- Small mountains
- Japanese immigrant
- Concealed
- Shelter for a dog
- Night rider
- Hear!
- Flood
- Harnessing
- Band of color
- Allude
- Hemispherical roofing
- Elude
- Story in instalments
- Milk protein used in adhesives
- Dog
- Fur coats
- Puncture again
- Story
- Water sound
- Taxes
- Below
- Ice cream (Fr)
- Foot-operated lever
- Coffin stand
- City in Nevada
- Rank

Answers can be found on this page

on the edge

Facts on teachers:

■ Bob Denver, Roberta Flack, Madeleine Kahn, Minnie Pearl, George C. Scott, Gene Simmons, Sting and Richard Widmark all worked as teachers before turning to show business.

■ The PTA, also known as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, was founded in the United States in 1897. It was originally called the National Congress of Mothers but was expanded to include fathers, teachers and other citizens.

■ Per a national survey, 80 percent of U.S. teachers in grades kindergarten through eighth-grade have received chocolate as a gift from their students.

■ Textbook shortages are so severe in some U.S. public schools that 71 percent of teachers say they have purchased reading materials with their own money.

■ In U.S. schools where more than 30 percent of the students are poor, 59 percent of teachers report they lack sufficient books and other reading resources. Only 16 percent of teachers in more affluent schools report shortages.

■ Socrates, one of the most famous Greek philosophers, never wrote down a single word of his teachings. The only knowledge we have of his thinking today comes from the notes taken by his student Plato.

■ The New York Board of Education barred the whipping of children in its schools on March 4, 1908.

Source: uselessknowledge.com

Area Events

Kansas City

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Mar. 8 | Julio Iglesias Ameristar Casino | Mar. 12 | Ellen Degeneres Midland Theatre |
| Mar. 8 | Houston The Hurricane | Mar. 16 | Isola The Hurricane |

Des Moines

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Mar. 7 | Famous FM House of Bricks | Mar. 20 | Famous FM Civic Center |
| Mar. 14 | Chris Beard Blues on Grand | Mar. 21 | Bongzilla Hairly Mary's |

Omaha

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Mar. 9 | The Good Life Sokol Underground | Mar. 13 | Oleander Ranch Bowl |
| Mar. 12 | Cold Ranch Bowl | Mar. 24 | Tori Amos Orpheum Theatre |

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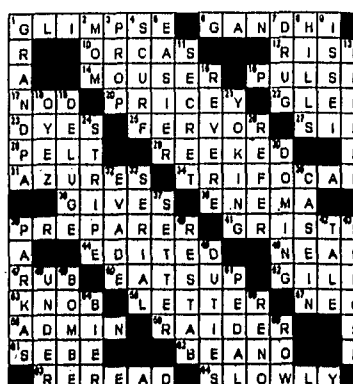
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MIAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

missourianonline.com

The Northwest Missourian

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Ready to stand tall in Kansas City

The men's and women's basketball teams head to Kansas City for the first ever MIAA tournament played at a neutral site

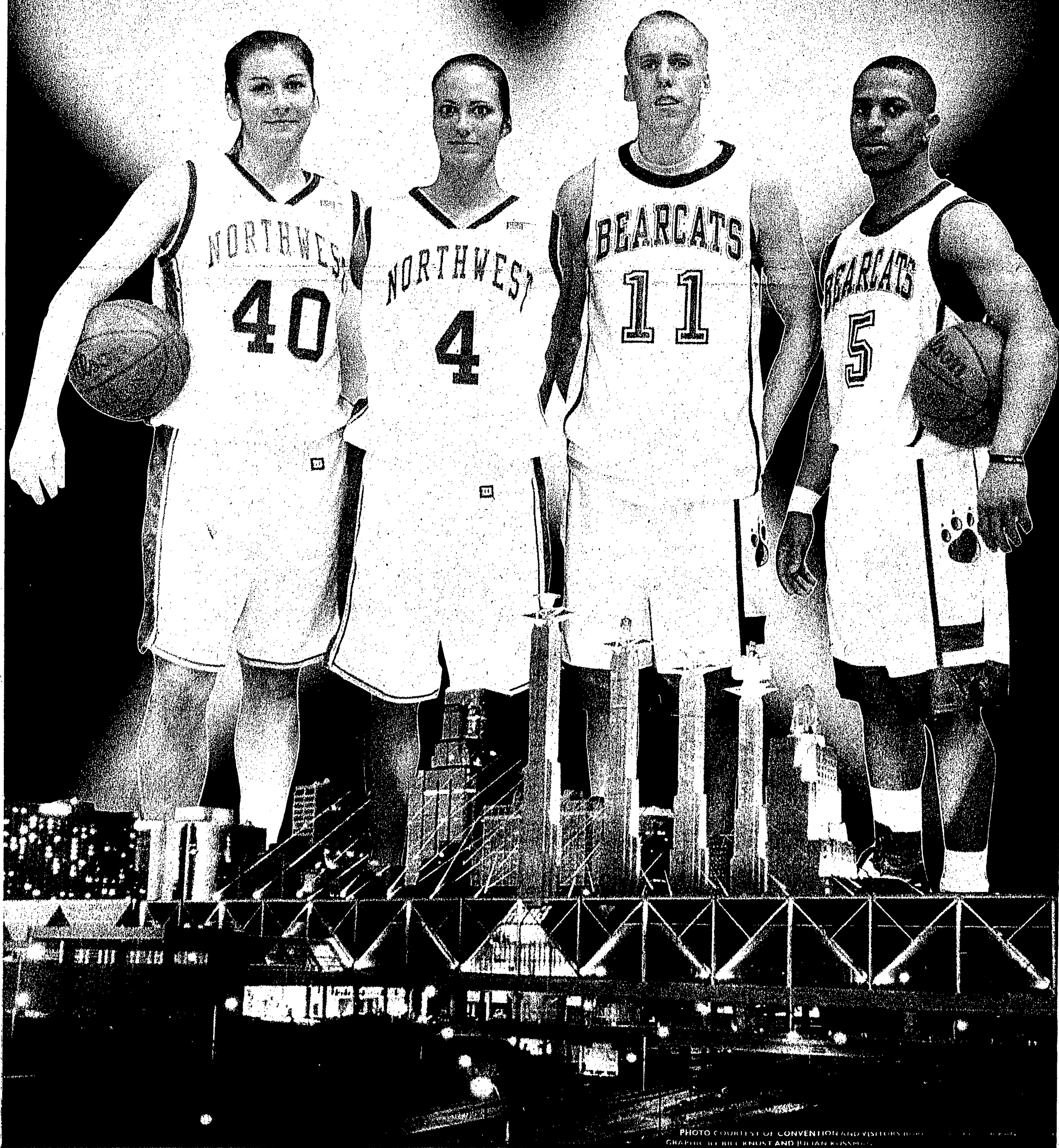


PHOTO COURTESY OF CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
GRAPHIC BY BILL KRUST AND JULIAN KUNISKE

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Sunday | Saturday | Thursday |
|---------------------------|----------|--------|--------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 8. Central Missouri State | | | | | 8. Truman State |
| Noon | | | | | Noon |
| 1. Washburn | | | | | 1. Washburn |
| | 6 p.m. | | | Noon | 5. Southwest Baptist |
| 5. Missouri Southern | | | | | 2:30 p.m. |
| 2:30 p.m. | | | | | 4. Northwest Missouri St. |
| 4. Emporia State | | | | | 6. Pittsburg State |
| 6. Pittsburg State | | | | | 8:30 p.m. |
| 8:30 p.m. | | | | | 3. Missouri Western |
| 3. Northwest Missouri St. | | | | 2:30 p.m. | 7. Missouri Southern |
| 7. Missouri-Rolla | | | | | 6 p.m. |
| 6 p.m. | | | | | 2. Emporia State |
| 2. Missouri Western | | | | | |

MEN

3:30 p.m.

WOMEN

1 p.m.

Kansas City area players are anxious to play in front of home fans

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER
UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR

When the men's and women's basketball teams arrive in Kansas City Wednesday afternoon, several athletes will return to their old high school stomping grounds.

And with the MIAA Basketball Tournament at Municipal Auditorium for the first time, it may give both teams an edge.

For players like junior Tanesha Fields; the backdrop of Municipal Auditorium is a familiar scene.

Fields, who hails from Overland Park, Kan., lives only 20 minutes away from Kansas City.

"I'm really excited about playing at home," Fields said. "I played there a couple of times in high school, and I went to women's Big XII games, so I'm used to the arena."

Fields is hopeful a lot of family and friends will come support her.

"I'm hoping a lot of my friends can come," Fields said. "It will be nice because my parents can come, and they usually don't get to come to many games."

Junior Corey Van Dine may not have many relatives in attendance since her extended family lives in Connecticut, but she is still excited to play.



Tanesha Fields is a native of Overland Park, Kan. She helped lead Blue Valley North High School to a state championship her senior season.



Emily Elkin of Lee's Summit was a two-time honorable mention all-conference selection in high school.



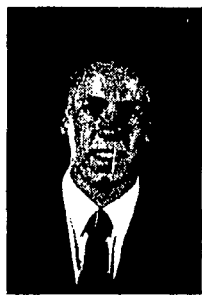
Laura Friederich is also a native of Overland Park, Kan. As a senior in high school, she earned all-metro and all-area honors.



Cory Van Dine attended Oak Grove High School in Kansas City. There, she led her team to three straight district and conference titles.



Brian Carson from Kansas City, attended Rockhurst High School. He averaged more than 10 points and eight rebounds a game as a senior there.



Scott Fleming led Liberty High School to a state title his junior season. As a senior, he led the team to a 25-3 record. He holds numerous high school records.



Floyd Jones came to Northwest as a walk-on and worked his way up in his four years at Northwest. The Kansas City native was a four-year letterwinner at Lincoln Prep.



Austin Meyer was named all-state at Blue Springs High School. Meyer was also named conference Player of the Year during his senior campaign.



Kelvin Parker is a native of Raytown. He attended Raytown South High School where he was selected as an all-stater his senior season.



Joel Yeldell comes from Olathe, Kan. There, he earned all-state honorable mention honors at Shawnee Mission Northwest. He also played at Johnson County CC.

"I am really excited because I have a lot of friends coming," Van Dine said. "(Municipal Auditorium) is a really cool place. I've been there a million times."

Once she arrives though, it will be all business.

"I'm just looking forward to win-

ning this league because we're playing so well right now," Van Dine said.

The men's team also has an array of players from the Kansas City area.

Senior Scott Fleming, who is from Liberty, will have high school teammates in attendance. While in high school, Fleming played in an all-star

game at Municipal Auditorium.

He said it will be different than playing at Bearcat Arena, though.

"(Municipal Auditorium) is quite a bit bigger, but a lot of us have played in arenas like that, so it won't be that big of a change," Fleming said. "I think it's great to have (the tourna-

ment) centralized. It helps us out, and we're looking forward to it."

For senior Floyd Jones, a Kansas City native, playing at the auditorium is long overdue.

The last time Jones stepped onto its floor was in elementary school when he played in a YMCA league.

Jones said it will be a great opportunity for him to come back home and see some of his family.

Jones said the tournament will be different than it has been in the past.

"I think (the location) gives us an opportunity to rest our legs and go out and play when we're fresh," Jones said.

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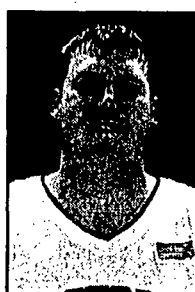
8 teams, 1 title: A breakdown of the Men's bracket

1. Washburn Ichabods (23-4, 15-3 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. CMSU: 2-0
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: At Western, 75-65
Northwest, 62-52
Key losses: Western, 68-67
At Emporia State, 84-63

Leader in:
Points: Ryan Murphy, 14.4 ppg
Rebounds: Murphy, 6.6 rpg
Assists: Jeremy Cunningham, 3.1 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Ryan Tomlins, Sr.
G - John Crider, Sr.
F - Norton Edmonds, Sr.
F - Ryan Murphy, Sr.
F - Manny Clifton, Sr.



Ryan Murphy
Made All-MIAA first team this season.

Watch out for:
Gary Woodland who came off the bench against Northwest Feb. 12 and scored 21 points against the Bearcats.

Why to keep an eye on the Ichabods

The Ichabods go into the tournament as the regular season champions in the MIAA and are the only conference school ranked in the Division II Top 25 poll. Washburn's starting five seniors have been as far as the Elite Eight as sophomores. The Ichabods rely on the shooting of seniors Ryan Murphy and Manny Clifton. Both average more than double digits in scoring.

8. Central Missouri State Mules (12-15, 6-12 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. WU: 0-2
Season series record vs. Northwest: 0-2
Neutral site record: 2-1
Key wins: Western, 99-87
Pitt State, 85-75
Key losses: Northwest, 78-56
At Rolla, 70-69

Leader in:
Points: James Collins, 13.7 ppg
Rebounds: Mark DeBaun, 7.0 rpg
Assists: Jeremy McFall, 3.78 apg

Projected starting five:
G - James Collins, Jr.
G - Jeremy McFall, Jr.
C - Mark DeBaun, Sr.
F - Kenan Oliver, Jr.
F - Brian Rhodes, Jr.



Mark DeBaun
Averages 14 points and seven rebounds a game.

Why to keep an eye on the Mules

Central Missouri State will have to complete the biggest upset in the MIAA season by knocking off Washburn in the first round. But the Mules have beaten Western at home. Central comes into the tournament on a two-game winning streak. Both were wins over Pittsburg State and at Truman. Junior Jeremy McFall is averaging near 20 points per game in the last five.

2. Missouri Western Griffons (20-7, 12-6 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. CMSU: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: At Washburn, 68-67
At Emporia St., 98-67
Key losses: CMSU, 99-87
Washburn, 75-65

Leader in:
Points: Damon Bailey, 18.5 ppg
Rebounds: Mario Davis, 6.8 rpg
Assists: Larry Taylor, 5.7 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Tee Mason, Sr.
G - Lou Chapman, Sr.
G - Larry Taylor, Sr.
F - Mario Davis, Jr.
F - Damon Bailey, Sr.



Damon Bailey
Made All-MIAA first team this season.

Watch out for:
Matt Grove who is shooting from 41.4 percent from three-point range. He made both his attempts in the last outing against Northwest.

Why to keep an eye on the Griffons

Western is full of talent and experience. The Griffons shared the conference title last year with Northwest and was one win short of winning last year's conference tournament. Four players average double figures in points and the Griffons as a team average 80 points a game. That ranks them second in the conference behind Emporia State. The Griffons can play defense as well. The team is ranked second in the conference in defense.

3. Northwest Bearcats (20-7, 12-6 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. PSU: 1-1
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: Washburn, 59-58
Western, 80-74
Key losses: At MSSC, 78-75
At Pittsburg St., 81-67

Leader in:
Points: Scott Fleming, 17.0 ppg
Rebounds: Jesse Shaw, 5.4 rpg
Assists: Kelvin Parker, 3.96 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Kelvin Parker, Jr.
G - Scott Fleming, Sr.
F - Jelani Walker, Sr.
F - Floyd Jones, Sr.
F - Joel Yeldell, Sr.



Scott Fleming
Made All-MIAA first team for second straight year.

Watch out for:
Jesse Shaw who has not only been a scoring threat at times this season but also on rebounds. He averages 5.4 rebounds a game.

Why to keep an eye on the Bearcats

The Bearcats have defeated everyone in the MIAA at least once this season. On top of that, the "Cats" were last year's conference champions. The Bearcats will hope to catch fire beyond the arc. The Bearcats rank third in scoring offense and defense. If the Bearcats are able to be successful behind the arc, then they can make a deep run. They are 13-1 when they make more three-pointers than their opponents.

4. Emporia State Hornets (16-11, 12-6 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. MSSC: 2-0
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 0-1
Key wins: Washburn, 84-63
Northwest, 109-89
Key losses: At Rolla, 76-69
At SBU, 73-71

Leader in:
Points: Robbie Ballard, 23.3 ppg
Rebounds: Desmond Parris, 7.2 rpg
Assists: Vincent Thomas, 5.3 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Desmond Parris, Sr.
G - Robbie Ballard, Sr.
G - Thomas Vincent, Sr.
F - Desmond Parris, Sr.
F - Shawn Herrman, Sr.



Robbie Ballard
Was named MIAA play of the year.

Watch out for:
Shawn Herrman, the MIAA Freshman of the Year, who averages nine points a game and shoots near 60 percent from the field.

Why to keep an eye on the Hornets

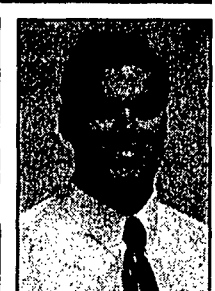
The Hornets are one of the most dangerous teams in the tournament. Despite finishing fourth in the conference, Emporia State has had its share of quality wins in the conference, including a 20-point victory over Northwest earlier in the season. But the Hornets are also capable of stumbling. They lost to Missouri Western at home by 21 points. The Hornets will rely on the shooting of Robbie Ballard to carry them far into the weekend.

7. Missouri-Rolla Miners (12-14, 7-11 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. MWSC: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 0-2
Neutral site record: 1-1
Key wins: Emporia, 76-69
Western, 68-61
Key losses: At MSSC, 71-56
At CMSU, 72-70

Leader in:
Points: Brian Westre, 19.0 ppg
Rebounds: Westre, 9.7 rpg
Assists: DeAndre Johnson, 4.36 apg

Projected starting five:
G - DeAndre Johnson, Jr.
G - Eric Wessel, Jr.
G - Kerry Darting, Jr.
C - Brian Westre, Jr.
F - Matt Williams, Jr.



Brian Westre
Made All-MIAA first team this season.

Why to keep an eye on the Miners

Rolla may come into the tournament as the seventh seed, but they should not be counted out early. The Miners defeated Emporia State earlier in the season, proving they are capable of beating anybody. However a poor shooting day by junior Brian Westre will spell trouble for the Miners. Rolla ranks last in the conference in scoring offense. Rolla comes into the tournament losing four out of their last five games.

6. Pittsburg State Gorillas (16-11, 8-10 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. NW: 1-1
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: Western, 67-57
Northwest, 81-67
Key losses: At Central, 85-75
MSSC, 74-69

Leader in:
Points: Cedric Brooks, 21.0 ppg
Rebounds: Jamey Richardson, 10.0 rpg
Assists: Brooks, 3.85 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Cedric Brooks, Sr.
G - Tommy Vasseler, Sr.
C - Oliver Vogt, Sr.
F - Greg Campbell, Sr.
F - Jamey Richardson Jr.



Cedric Brooks
Second leading scorer in the MIAA conference.

Why to keep an eye on the Gorillas

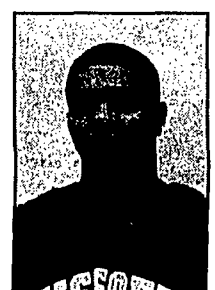
If Pittsburg State can play the tournament like they played the beginning of the conference schedule, then the Gorillas can make a solid run. The Gorillas have defeated the Bearcats in Pittsburg, Kan., but have collapsed late in the season. The Gorillas pose a threat because of the scoring combination of Cedric Brooks, Jamey Richardson and Tommy Vasseler. The Gorillas can defend the three-pointer. They are second in the MIAA in three-point defense.

5. Missouri Southern Lions (18-9, 10-8 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. ESU: 0-2
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 2-0
Key wins: Northwest, 78-75
At Pittsburg St., 74-69
Key losses: At SBU, 80-65
At Rolla, 65-61

Leader in:
Points: Ameer Watts, 14.4 ppg
Rebounds: Jamahr Warren, 6.9 rpg
Assists: Watts, 5.63 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Ameer Watts, Jr.
G - Hiram Ocasio, Sr.
C - Zach Scheirer, Sr.
F - Jamahr Warren, Sr.
F - Deon Rose, Jr.



Jamahr Warren
Made honorable-mention all-conference.

Why to keep an eye on the Lions

Southern has struggled to pull off quality wins in the conference during the regular season. Despite a win at home against Northwest, the Lions have struggled against Washburn and Emporia State. However, their first round matchup with the Hornets may be worth watching considering the Hornets needed overtime to beat the Lions in their last meeting in Emporia, Kan. The Lions are led by scoring threats Jamahr Warren and Ameer Watts.

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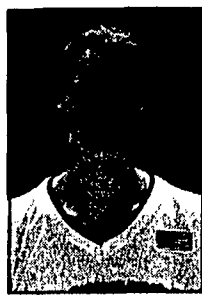
8 teams, 1 title: A breakdown of the Women's bracket

1. Washburn Lady Blues (24-3, 15-3 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Truman: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 0-2
Neutral site record: 2-0
Key wins: At Western, 70-55
Emporia 65-57
Key losses: At Emporia State 61-51

Leader in:
Points: Crystal Walker, 15.8 ppg
Rebounds: Walker, 7.1 rpg
Assists: Kristy Chapman, 2.6 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Bethany McGraw, Sr.
G - Kristy Chapman, Sr.
G - Gosia Czarnecka, Sr.
F - Carissa Goeglein, Sr.
C - Crystal Walker, Sr.



Crystal Walker

Watch out for:
Crystal Walker who earned her second conference Player of the Year honor this season.

Why to keep an eye on the Blues

After winning the MIAA regular season championship, Washburn goes into the tournament against conference doormat Truman. The problem is Truman gave the Blues one of their three losses on the season. Depth is definitely on Washburn's side with 10 players seeing considerable playing time.

2. Emporia State Hornets (21-6, 14-4 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Southern: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 0-1
Key wins: At Western, 63-55
Washburn, 61-51
Key losses: Western, 72-73
At Northwest, 60-50

Leader in:
Points: Kristie McClain, 17.6 ppg
Rebounds: E. Vargas-Sanchez, 8.1 rpg
Assists: Jamie Blakely, 7.3 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Nicole Patry, So.
G - Kristie McClain, Sr.
G - Jamie Blakely, Sr.
G - Dragana Banjac, Sr.
C - E. Vargas-Sanchez, So.



Jamie Blakely

Watch out for:
Nicole Patry who is able to pick up where McClain leaves off from the outside. She had 27 points against Nebraska-Omaha.

Why to keep an eye on the Hornets

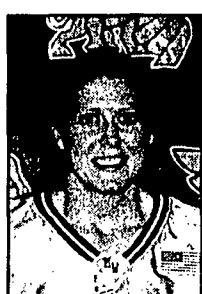
The Hornets head to Kansas City after nearly losing their season finale to Pittsburg State. Leading scorer in the MIAA Kristie McClain has shown the ability to be explosive, scoring more than 30 points on two different occasions. Her hot shooting mixed with the inside play of 6-foot-3-inch Esmay Vargas-Sanchez could lead the Hornets to the championships.

3. Missouri Western Griffons (21-6, 13-5 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Pitt St.: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 2-0
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: At Washburn, 60-56
At Emporia St., 73-72
Key losses: Washburn, 70-55
Emporia State, 63-55

Leader in:
Points: Nicole Lindsey, 16.3 ppg
Rebounds: Lindsey, 8.8 rpg
Assists: Carly Lee, 3.2 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Michelle Parlett, Sr.
G - Carly Lee, So.
G - Danielle McKinley, Jr.
F - Steph Jones, Sr.
C - Nicole Lindsey, Sr.



Steph Jones

Watch out for:
Steph Jones. While Nicole Lindsey leads the team in points and rebounds, Jones finished second in both.

Why to keep an eye on the Griffons

With a balanced combination between veteran players and youth, the Griffons provide a mix that causes many teams trouble, especially inside. The inside tandem of Nicole Lindsey and Steph Jones averages 31 points a game. If these two get in foul trouble though, it could be a long night against the Gorillas.

4. Northwest Missouri State Bearcats (15-11, 10-8 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. SBU: 2-0
Neutral site record: 3-0
Key wins: Emporia St., 60-50
Southwest Baptist, 70-67
Key losses: At Western, 86-79
At Washburn, 63-55

Leader in:
Points: Sarah Vollertsen, 13.6 ppg
Rebounds: Vollertsen, 7.3 rpg
Assists: Jane Chalmers, 4.2 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Jane Chalmers, Jr.
G - Erica Hatterman, Jr.
G - Laura Friederich, Jr.
F - Jenna Wolfe, Jr.
C - Sarah Vollertsen, Jr.



Sarah Vollertsen

Watch out for:
Brooke Hogue coming off the bench. The team captain scored 10 points in a loss to Western.

Why to keep an eye on the Bearcats

The Bearcats are yet to face a team they can't beat or contain to only a 10-point loss. The defense seems sure with Erica Hatterman and all-MIAA defensive team member, Jenna Wolfe, and Sarah Vollertsen seems to be at 100 percent after foot injuries plagued her at the beginning of the season.

8. Truman State Bulldogs (9-17, 5-13 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Washburn: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 1-0
Key wins: Washburn, 76-71
At Northwest, 74-72
Key losses: At Washburn, 85-57
At Emporia, 87-73

Leader in:
Points: Annie Westhoff, 15.6 ppg
Rebounds: Adri Tromp, 8.4 rpg
Assists: Kelli Floyd, 2.2 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Keagan Thalin, Jr.
G - Kelli Floyd, So.
F - Annie Westhoff, Jr.
F - Adri Tromp, Jr.
F - Sarah Sommer, Jr.



Annie Westhoff

Watch out for:
Sarah Sommer who played a key role in beating Washburn earlier in the year scoring 16 points.

Why to keep an eye on the Bulldogs

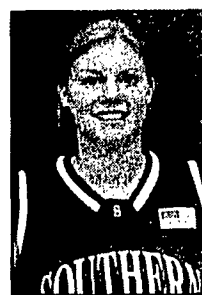
The Bulldogs are in a position most opponents fear. They have nothing to lose. Any wins for the Bulldogs would be a surprise. It's not as if Truman can't beat the Blues though, as they were able to come away with a 76-71 win in Kirksville. The team is very young, having no seniors in the starting line-up.

7. Missouri Southern Lions (15-14, 7-11 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. ESU: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 2-0
Neutral site record: 1-2
Key wins: Emporia, 67-56
Western, 79-55
Key losses: Northwest, 66-37
At Washburn 61-55

Leader in:
Points: Jacquie Rzesnut, 16.3 ppg
Rebounds: Wyketha Harrell, 5.6 rpg
Assists: Carol Koenig, 4.1 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Jacquie Rzesnut, Jr.
G - Carol Koenig, Fr.
F - Lacey Messick, Sr.
F - Wyketha Harrell, Jr.
C - Lucimara Silva, Sr.



Jacquie Rzesnut

Watch out for:
Carol Koenig who started all 29 regular season games for the Lions as a true freshman this season.

Why to keep an eye on the Lions

The Lions head into the tournament with wins over two of the top teams in the conference. With Jacquie Rzesnut averaging over 16 points a game, the Lions have the ability to stay with nearly any team in the conference. They have been known to lose ugly (There loss at Northwest).

6. Pittsburg State Gorillas (15-12, 8-10 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Western: 1-1
Season series record vs. Northwest: 1-1
Neutral site record: 2-0
Key win: Western, 75-65
Northwest, 65-44
Key losses: At Washburn, 58-71
Emporia, 53-54

Leader in:
Points: Amanda Davied, 15.3 ppg
Rebounds: Melissa Watkins, 6.2 rpg
Assists: Davied, 5.9 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Amanda Davied, Sr.
G - Melissa Watkins, Sr.
F - Kami Scrivner, So.
F - Stephanie Shanline, Jr.
F - Katie Speiker, Jr.



Amanda Davied

Watch out for:
Melissa Watkins who in addition to leading the team in rebounds, has the ability to score points in a hurry.

Why to keep an eye on the Gorillas

The Gorillas start the tournament against Western, a team with which they had no problem at one point during the season winning by 10. Pitt has been playing well as of late, nearly defeating Emporia State but having a game-winning shot called off due to shooting it after the final horn.

5. Southwest Baptist Bearcats (16-11, 10-8 in MIAA)

Season series record vs. Northwest: 0-2
Neutral site record: 3-1
Key wins: Western, 94-80
Key losses: Northwest, 59-55
At Emporia State, 59-53
Washburn, 56-50

Leader in:
Points: Amber Wheeler, 15.6 ppg
Rebounds: Gwyn Smith, 9.2 rpg
Assists: Jenny Miller, 4.2 apg

Projected starting five:
G - Amber Wheeler, Fr.
G - Jenny Miller, So.
G - Allison Ramirez, Sr.
F - Alicia Mercer, Jr.
F - Gwyn Smith, So.



Amber Wheeler

Watch out for:
Amber Wheeler who was named Freshman of the Year in addition to leading the conference in scoring for freshmen.

Why to keep an eye on the Bearcats

The Bearcats have played three of the four teams above them within 4 points. In addition, they have a victory over the teams above them. The Bearcats believe they have the talent to stay with any of these teams and possibly beat any of them in the tournament.

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OUT OF BOUNDS

Lady 'Cats need a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T

COLE YOUNG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Here's a little inside information for the other women's teams in the MIAA: Northwest really doesn't need any more bulletin board material for the tournament.

On Sunday night at the MIAA awards ceremony, the Bearcats saw just one of their own receive an individual award, head coach Gene Steinmeyer.

The true travesty though was in the all-defensive team. Jenna Wolfe was named to the team and is a good defender, but as Steinmeyer will tell you, an even better actress. Problem is, she isn't the best defender on the team.

Junior Erica Hatterman is far and away the best defender in the conference. You have to look no further than last Wednesday when Emporia State University came to Northwest. Hatterman drew the assignment of the league's top scorer Kristie McClain who was averaging 17.6 points per game and held her to zero.

For the women to earn respect around the conference that everyone in Nodaway County knows they deserve, they'll have to do something great this weekend.

The first thing they have to do is get by Southwest Baptist University.

All the talk the past few weeks is about the women getting the respect they deserve, but for any fan who saw them lose to Truman State University and Central Missouri State University at home, they know all this talk could be for naught, and the Southwest Bearcats could be the ones shocking the MIAA instead of Northwest.

I don't think the Bearcats are going to let that happen though. At least I hope not.

Last year, the 'Cats were shut out of the tournament, making many fans think that simply making it this year would mean success for the Bearcats.

I don't quite think Sarah Vollertsen thinks that way. In fact, I dare someone to tell Sarah, "As long as you do well against Baptist, the campus will be proud."

Whoever decides to tell her this will be easy to identify at the tournament. He or she will be the one with two black eyes and depending on her mood, maybe a body cast.

This team isn't going to be happy with anything but the conference tournament championship.

"Our goal as a team is to play up to our potential," Laura Friederich said. "And we have the potential to be the best in the conference."

I hope Bearcat fans have cleared their schedules for Sunday, because, if things go the way Steinmeyer, Friederich and the rest of the Bearcats plan, Municipal Auditorium is going to turn into Bearcat Arena South.

Cole Young can be contacted at 562-1224 or cyoung@missourianonline.com

Steinmeyer highlights award ceremony for Northwest

By MARK EUSTON
CHIEF REPORTER

Four Bearcats received awards recognizing their achievements for the 2002-2003 basketball season at the MIAA awards ceremony Sunday in Kansas City.

Junior Sarah Vollertsen and women's head coach Gene Steinmeyer were named to the all-MIAA second team and MIAA Coach of the year, respectively.

Steinmeyer's award comes after early season rumors that hinted his job could be in jeopardy.

"The reason people thought that I was

on the hot seat was because of my own big mouth," Steinmeyer said. "I kept making statements that we have to make the tournament."

Steinmeyer jokingly gave credit for the award to last season's lack of success.

"Maybe we underachieved enough last year so that I could win the award this year," Steinmeyer said.

Steinmeyer also gave credit to his



GENE STEINMEYER

assistant coaches and team captains. "I wish they had another plaque for my assistants," he said. "The ones who deserve the credit for this award are those two assistants and my two captains."

Though Steinmeyer said he appreciated the award, he tried to put it into perspective.

"The award is really not a big deal personally," Steinmeyer said. "I was chosen one of ten coaches. Big deal."

After being recognized as a pre-season All-American, senior Scott Fleming was placed on the first team All-MIAA.

"The most important thing when you win awards like this, it means your team had a good year," Fleming said. "We had

a little bit of pressure on us at the beginning of the year, and to come through and win 20 games feels pretty good."

Though Fleming acknowledged the honor of being placed on the pre-season first team All-America and first team all-MIAA, he said it was never his intention to win awards.

"You can never make it a goal to win awards," Fleming said. "You can set team goals, but you can never set little individual goals for awards. The only individual goals you can set for yourself are how you are going to contribute and things of that nature. To be a good competitor, you have to think team first."

Fleming said he wished some of his

teammates had received awards too.

"I think that some of the guys that come out and play hard every night deserve awards too," he said. "But this is a very competitive conference, and I didn't get to vote, so I didn't have any say in it."

Though Fleming appreciated being recognized individually, he said the award is reflective of the team.

"It feels good to have other people recognize you as one of the top players in the conference," Fleming said. "But like I said, more importantly, if you play for a bad team, you are not getting an award like this. Winning an award like this means your team had a good year, and hopefully, we can continue on."

Sixteen teams prepare for chance to reign supreme in MIAA

By COLE YOUNG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association is following in the footsteps of many Division I conferences by moving its tournament to a neutral site.

By moving the tournament to Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, the MIAA has hoped to create an environment that better portrays postseason play rather than additional home games being called a conference tournament.

One person who is very much in favor of the changes is women's head coach Gene Steinmeyer.

"Take away the road loss against Pittsburg," Steinmeyer said, "and we're a very good road team. I don't know what it is, but we seem to play better when we are on the road."

The women might also notice the change in atmosphere for the tournament. After playing in front of packed houses for the Emporia State and Western games, Northwest drew an odd time slot of 2:30 on Thursday afternoon to kick off the tournament. Most college students will be in class, and many alumni will still be at work.

"It's kind of ironic," Steinmeyer said. "This game is more important than the last two games combined."

For the Northwest men's squad, the game is not so much about the atmosphere it brings to the conference tournament, but more

about getting an idea of what regional play will be like.

The men plan to stay in Kansas City until they lose rather than make the trip to Maryville and back on consecutive days.

"It's really a good atmosphere," men's head coach Steve Tappmeyer said. "The way you lose and go home brings a lot more pressure to the table for the teams. The excitement that it causes is a lot like the excitement you will see at the regional tournament."

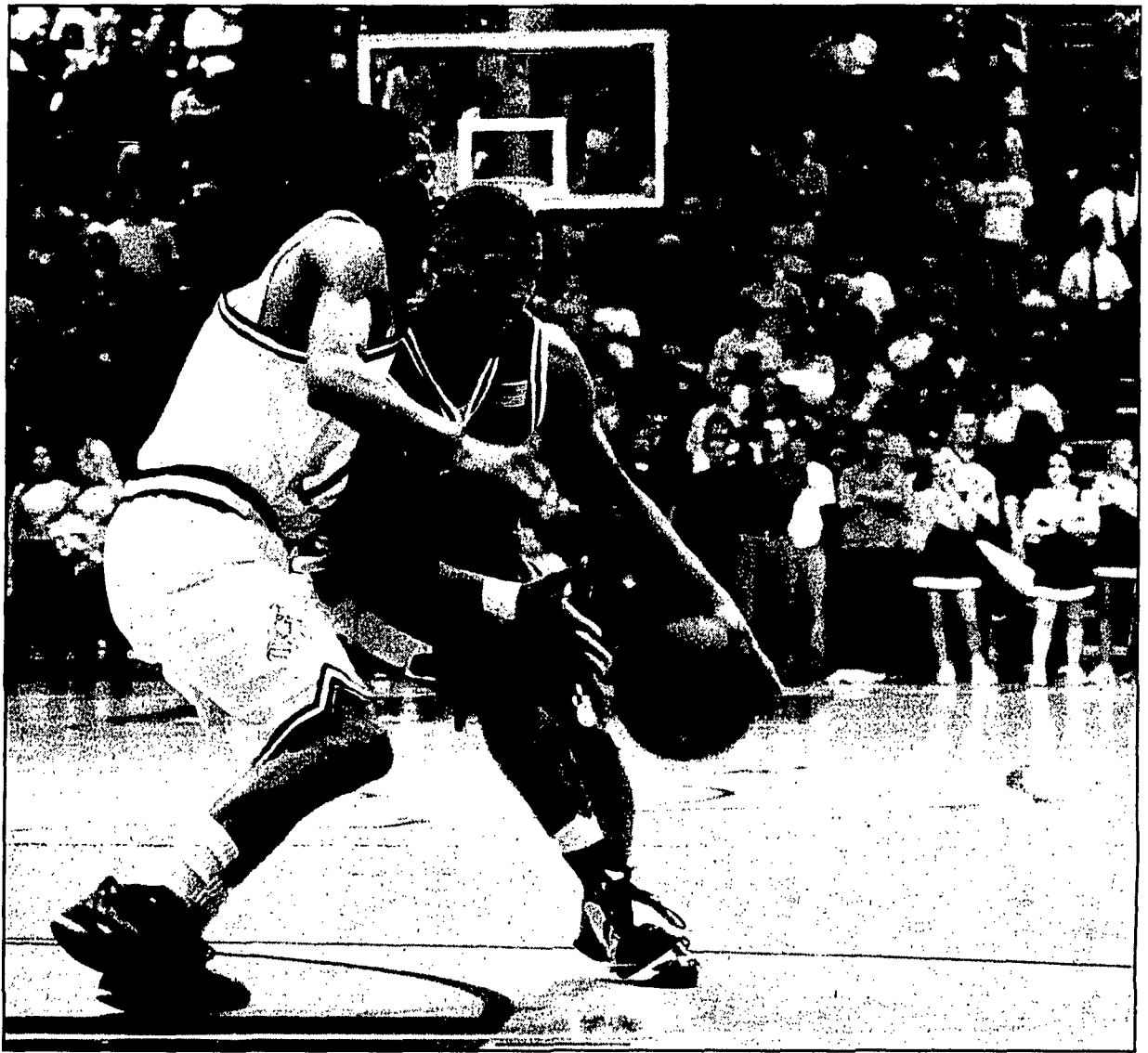
One problem that seems to be a major topic of discussion among fans and coaches is the cost of tickets for the inaugural tournament. The only tickets available for the games are all-session passes, that cost \$35. Fans can see as many as 14 games for that price or as few as one.

"The ticket price really isn't a problem for the average guy," Steinmeyer said. "Who it's a problem for is a parent who wants to come watch their child play. Instead of paying for just themselves, they are paying for themselves and maybe three other kids in the family. Now you're talking over \$100 to watch the tournament."

The tournament kicks off today at noon with the Washburn and Truman State women and finishes on Sunday with the women's championship at 1 p.m. and the men's at 3:30 p.m.

For ticket information call Student Services, 562-1212.

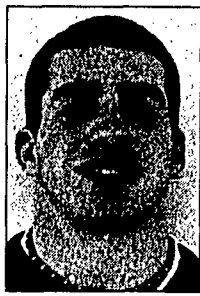
Cole Young can be contacted at 562-1224 or cyoung@missourianonline.com



Northwest's Kelvin Parker clashes with Missouri Western's Lou Chapman during the Griffons' win over the Bearcats. Northwest and Western could face each other for a third time if both teams win their opening-round games Friday.

HAIL TO THE VICTOR

MIAA Tournament ticket prices cause Editor to raise questions

CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

\$35.

People can buy a lot of things for \$35, but you can only purchase one session ticket for the MIAA tournament with that amount of cash.

That's right—one ticket for the entire weekend for \$35.

A Bearcat fan can buy three tickets to a Division II football playoff game for that kind of money.

Now, that kind of money might be worth sitting through 14 good basketball games. Do the math.

Not so bad, but here is a scenario.

It's Friday, the time is about noon and you are a fan from Central Missouri State.

Your first round opponent is

Washburn, who just happens to be the MIAA champions.

Now, anything can happen in the MIAA. That has been proven this season, but Central's chances are not so good.

Washburn defeats the Mules and as a fan of Central, your season is over. But you got to get your money's worth, so you sit through another pointless game and then the two late games. And hell, why not stay in Kansas City, rack up a large hotel bill and watch some more games that do not involve your team.

Sounds kind of ridiculous because it is.

Why the officials at the MIAA do not sell single game tickets is unknown. I'm

sure there is a good reason. Maybe it is an excuse to keep people in the stands throughout the entire weekend.

Why would a Central fan not want to watch 13 more games that mean nothing to their lives? How many Missouri-Rolla fans are going to travel five hours and pay \$35 to watch their Miners lose in the first round to Missouri Western?

Another scenario:

As a fan, you want to see how the tournament pans out. Let's say Northwest reaches the championship game Sunday and you want to go see them. Unfortunately, you will still be forced to pay \$35. However, not to worry.

As a bonus, you get the opportunity to watch the women's championship game.

What if the Lady 'Cats do not make it to Sunday? Then you are forced to watch Washburn and Emporia State or whomever. It's a good possibility the game would be one Bearcat fans do not care about, especially if it does not involve the Lady 'Cats.

Sure, there will be a handful of fans that get their money's worth. For those that do not—congratulations on wasting your money.

Oh, by the way—do not forget to pay for parking.

Municipal basks in rich basketball history

By BILL KNUST
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The MIAA features great men's and women's players from pre-season All-American Scott Fleming Northwest and Washburn senior Ryan Murphy to Missouri Western State College's Nicole Lindsey and Washburn's Crystal Walker.

When those players take the court this weekend though, they won't be anywhere near the caliber of legends that have graced the floor at Municipal Auditorium.

That is not a put down to these players. The ghosts of former NBA players Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry Lucas and Bill Russell are among the great players to perform at Municipal Auditorium.

Former UCLA head coach John Wooden won his first NCAA title in Kansas City at Municipal.

The building has been host to a record nine NCAA championship games. It has also hosted an NCAA tournament record 83 games, in-

cluding 13 regional championship games.

According to the Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Centers, Municipal Auditorium opened in 1936 and cost \$6.5 million.

The auditorium was designed to hold a wide range of activities from sporting events to concerts and circuses.

The arena holds 10,500 people and contains no pillars or posts to obstruct viewing lines.

Municipal Auditorium was also home to the NBA team the Kansas City Kings from 1972 to 1974. It has retired the numbers of NBA Hall of Famers Nate "Tiny" Archibald and "The Big O" Oscar Robertson. Now the arena hosts the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos.

So, this weekend when you are watching and senior Joel Yeldell skies to block a shot, or senior Jelani Walker throws down a monster jam, the ghosts of Russell and Chamberlain might just be helping them.

missourianonline.com will be your MIAA Tournament source for:

■ Up-to-date information on the Northwest games.

■ Summaries and scores of other tournament games.

■ Daily diaries of the MIAA tournament.

■ Pictures immediately following the Northwest games.

Check in Friday for coverage of the Arrowhead II press conference, featuring a return to Arrowhead Stadium for both the Northwest and Pittsburg State football programs.

THE COVER

Featured on the Section C cover is (from left) juniors Sarah Vollertsen and Jenna Wolfe from the women's basketball team and senior Scott Fleming and junior Kelvin Parker from the men's squad. Photo of Kansas City skyline courtesy of The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City.

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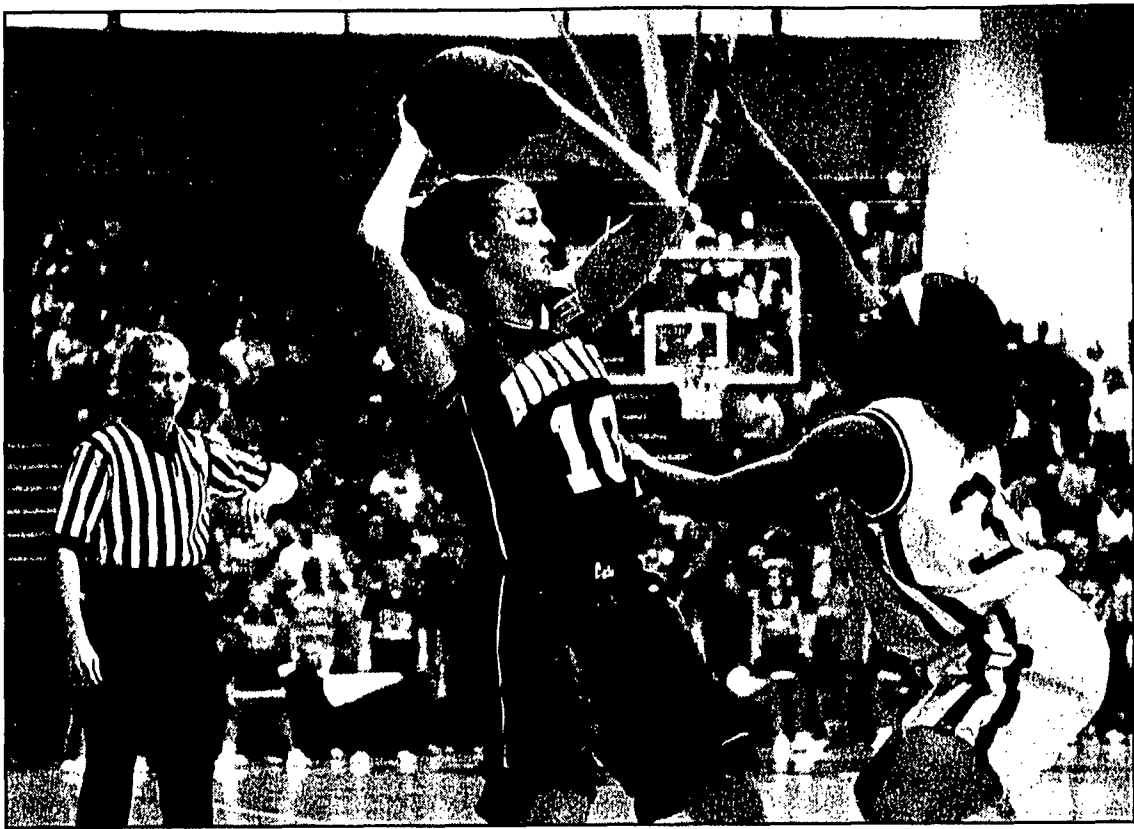


PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/EDITOR IN CHIEF
Freshman Laura Friederich looks for a passing lane in the loss at Missouri Western, Saturday. Friederich, who was in the running for conference Freshman of the Year, is the Bearcat's third leading scorer and is fourth on the team in minutes per game.

Freshman goes back to roots

Conference tournament brings back high school memories for Friederich

By COLE YOUNG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

For one player on the women's basketball team, the MIAA tournament is more than just a chance to play in a big arena. Instead, it's a homecoming of sorts.

Freshman Laura Friederich returns to her Kansas City roots after a high school career that saw her finish as the second all-time scorer at Shawnee Mission South, in Overland Park, Kan.

Friederich's numbers in high school aren't what's making all the noise though. During the regular season, Friederich was third on the team in scoring with 10.6 points per game, ranking only behind All-MIAA players Sarah Vollertsen (13.9) and Jenna Wolfe (11.5).

If being in the top three in scoring wasn't enough for Friederich, with only three games left in the regular season, she had not been a regular in the starting lineup.

"I hoped to start my freshman year," Friederich said. "All I can say is that it's just been something that hard work and coach giving me a chance made happen."

While many players in their first year and seem to be better defensively, while lacking the offensive production they were accustomed to in high school, the same

cannot be said for Friederich.

Bearcat fans don't have to look any further than last Saturday night's game against Missouri Western State College to see she is looked upon as a scorer.

With 33 seconds left in the game, the 'Cats put their hopes in the freshman. Friederich converted with a three-pointer to put the Bearcats within four.

"She is a clutch player," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "Generally she tends to make more shots in the second half than in the first half and she hits them when they matter."

However, there is a fine line between shooting whenever you have a good look at the basket and shooting whenever you touch the ball. Friederich tries to avoid the latter.

"It's always been if the opportunity's there," Friederich said. "If I get an open look or someone hits me with a good pass and they want me to take it, I take it."

The homecoming for Friederich doesn't seem to have the same affect on her as some players. Expected to be in the crowd is her regular fan club, including her parents, grandmothers and little brother.

"A lot of girls don't have a lot of success playing close to home," Steinmeyer said. "They get a little too wrapped up in the emotions of it, but I don't think that will happen with Laura."

Just one year removed from the high school ranks, will it be a flashback to playing in high school?

"I think it will be like playing in high school again," Friederich said. "Only a lot bigger gym."

Cole Young can be contacted at 562-1224 or cyoung@missourianonline.com

Giant Tamer

Yeldell has had the duty to take on the MIAA's top big men

By CLARK GRELL
SPORTS EDITOR

To say senior Joel Yeldell has had his work cut out for him this season would be an understatement.

For 27 games, Yeldell has done the team's dirty work, taking on the conference's top big men, many who outsize the six-foot-seven-inch forward and center.

"After half the games, I feel like the oldest 21-year-old on Earth," Yeldell said.

After the departure of Derrick Worrell and a season-ending injury to Keanan Wier, Yeldell was faced with the challenge of filling up the paint.

"Those things you can't really count on happening during the season when you lose guys," Yeldell said. "My role changed. You got to take what you get and roll with it."

Alongside senior Floyd Jones, Yeldell has gotten the job done in the post, but it has not been easy.

He has had to deal with the likes of Missouri-Rolla's Brian Westre (6 feet 9 inches) and Pittsburg State's duo of Oliver Vogt (6 feet 10 inches) and Brandon Twitto (6 feet 7 inches).

Friday, Yeldell will clash with that same Pittsburg State duo.

"Friday's game is going to be tough," Yeldell said. "Playing that first game at Pittsburg (on Jan. 4), I had trouble guarding the big guys down low."

In that game, Yeldell managed to score only four points. Things were a little different when Pittsburg State traveled to Northwest. In a 92-64

thumping of the Gorillas, Yeldell scored nine points, all on three-pointers.

The native of Olathe, Kan., is averaging eight points a game and is grabbing 4.4 rebounds per game.

Unlike the traditional big man, Yeldell likes his opportunities he gets behind the arc. He shot 44 percent from three-point land this season, ranking him first on the team among the five starters. He helped Northwest break the season mark in three-pointers.

However, it is his will to play hard that makes him a complete player.

"It's my versatility," Yeldell said. "I see the game, and I know what we need as a team. I see ahead of time how the defense will play us. I go from there on what I need to do."

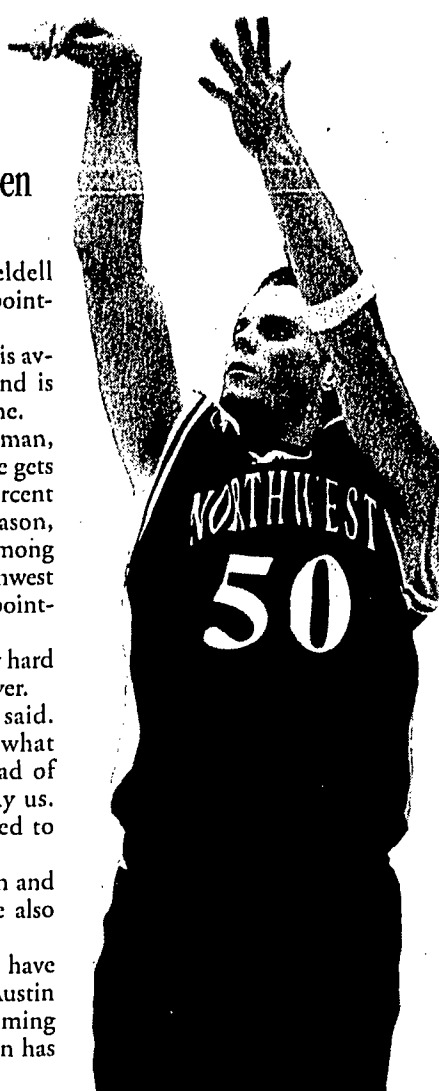
Players coming off the bench and giving solid performances have also benefited Yeldell this season.

"We've had some guys that have helped out this year," he said. "Austin Meyer has done a good job coming off the bench, and Brian Carson has helped as well."

Yeldell said the team has done well playing against teams that have outsize the Bearcats.

"Teams have put on their scouring reports to pound it down low, and I think we've done a pretty good job of taking that away," Yeldell said.

The toughest challenge awaits Yeldell and the Bearcats this week. The Bearcats have a chance of playing three games in three days, which means a long weekend ahead for Yeldell. However, he is looking forward to it.



Joel Yeldell

"I love tournament time," he said. "I love playing three days in a row. It will be more of a mental thing than a physical thing."

He may not be the biggest man in the conference, but come Sunday, Yeldell could be the only one on top of the conference.

Clark Grell can be contacted at 562-1224 or cgrell@missourianonline.com

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